

# At odds:

Sen. Metzenbaum, Rep. Hayes differ over who is culprit in the environmental 'mess'

Show Time '93

By PETER BLAIS

ANAHEIM, Calif. — U.S. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum challenged the golf industry to increase its efforts to protect the environment during January's 64th International Conference and Show.

"You can do much more than you are currently doing. I urge you to get off your butts and do more," the Ohio Democrat told the crowd assembled at the environmental general session.

Metzenbaum said government and industry have put environmental matters on the back burner the past 30 years.

"We have created an environmental mess and it is costing us dearly," Metzenbaum lamented.

Half the country's wetlands have been permanently destroyed over the past 200 years, he said.

Americans are spending \$115 billion annually and have dished out more than \$1 trillion so far protecting and cleaning up the environment, the senator said. The annual figure is expected to rise to \$160 billion by the year 2000.

"And the public wants us to spend more," Metzenbaum said.

Metzenbaum said President Clinton's choice of Carol Browner to head the Environmental Protection Agency shows his concern for the environment.

"She has been very tough on polluters," he said of the former head of Florida's state environmental agency.

"Expect to hear a lot more from Ms. Browner."

Golf course superintendents have earned the title environmentalists through their efforts to reduce pesticide use and protect wildlife, Metzenbaum said.

"But as individuals, you can and should do more, especially for the sake of your children and their children," Metzenbaum said.

"Hundreds of the pesticides you use have not been adequately tested. And golf courses use four to seven times as much pesticide per acre as farms. You must do your part to limit their use. Address the water shortage head on and use less water.

"You've taken some good steps, but more is required. Tell your customers they can live with brown spots and a few weeds.

You are in a great spot to do something. Become leaders both in your clubs and communities."

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Hayes, D-La., preceded Metzenbaum and discussed his frustration with a federal regulatory system that seems beyond control.

"The administrative agencies are really a fourth branch of government with accountability to absolutely no one," said Hayes, one of the principal authors of the nation's federal wetlands regulations.

Hayes said he discovered



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— Rep. Jimmy Hayes

just how far beyond reach administrative agencies were while tracing \$219 million in U.S. Interior Department land acquisitions in 1991. Despite a

slumping real estate market, the department spent more than fair market value in 29 of its 53 transactions, Hayes said.

"You have to decide what risks

are there and spend your money on the things where you can do the most good," said Hayes.

With regulatory agencies, that isn't always being done, he said.

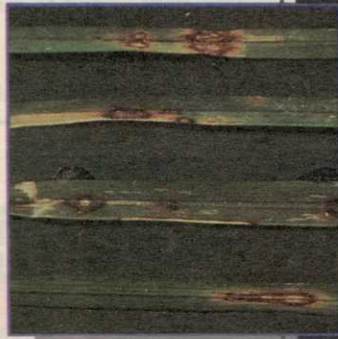
Yet there is no way to hold those agencies accountable.

That is a situation he said he and other legislators hope to help change.

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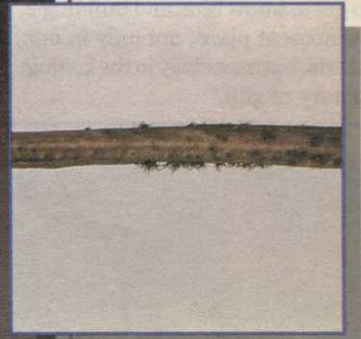
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