Karen Mower's remarks

October 27, 1998

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of "Save Our Shores" in Durham, N.H. to protect Great Bay and N.H. coast, the Durham Historic Association invited a panel of S.O.S. founders to address a public meeting. Following are the remarks of the S.O.S. Technical Committee's chairperson, Karen Mower.

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A successful grass roots campaign needs, besides inspired leadership and legislative know how, a mass of honest, objective facts about the issues, facts the public has a right to know.

In 1973, Aristotle Onassis' 2-million-dollar PR blitz for his proposed Durham oil refinery gave the New Hampshire public only hot air. In contrast, "Save Our Shores" gave the public facts to consider. We provided new, real life scientific and economic studies analyzing the effects Onassis refinery would have on the whole seacoast region's environment and economy.

I was privileged to organize and chair the "SOS Technical Committee," a group of 16 members. Some were UNH professors; some were townspeople. Each had expertise and experience in a special field, and all gave amazingly generously of their time and knowledge. Some did field studies and wrote them up, some spoke around the state to interested groups, and some did both.

I would like to read, alphabetically, the names and specialties of the "SOS Technical Committee" members. Some of them had prior commitments for tonight, but many are here in the audience.

I hope each of you will stand up when I read your name and your special field.

1) **Bob Croker**, Professor of Natural Resources, detailed for us the vital foodchain link between Great Bay marine life and ocean fish survival, a real concern for N.H. fishing and lobstering industries.

2) **Cass Curtis**, industrial engineer in Dover, addressed the 1970's "Cold War" risks of adding a refinery to our coast's already 3 existing military targets of Pease Air Base, Portsmouth Navy Yard, and Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant.

3) **Tony Federer**, Adjunct Professor of Natural Resources, did studies on refinery air pollution and on pollution control.

4) **Gordon Haaland**, Professor of Psychology, studied the social effects of a refinery on town services and town zoning.

5)+6) **Francis** Hall, Professor of Hydrogeology, ably assisted by graduate student **"Clif" Horrigan**, did the study which most electrified Durham. Their study of the Durham area's present and future water resources documented that a refinery of the proposed magnitude would consume all of the water supply of Durham residents and U.N.H. just for the oil refining process.

7) **Fred Hochgraf**, Professor of Material Science, expert on pipelines, spoke with all seacoast area towns through which the oil pipelines would run, from the Isles of Shoals and Rye to Great Bay and Durham.

8) **Jim Horrigan**, Professor of Finance, analyzed the Onassis advance team's strategies of public deception. Jim also analyzed the labor economics effects of a refinery on the area. He spoke on these topics to interested groups statewide.

9) **Galen Jones**, Professor of Marine Microbiology, was involved in research at U.N.H. 's Jackson Estuarine Laboratory at Adams Point. He shared with SOS and the public, speaking around the state, his own first hand experience as a consultant in cleanup of major oil spills, including the spill off the Santa Barbara, California coast.

10) **Bob Kennedy**, of Ambler Way in Durham, was himself a career Captain of large oil tanker ships. He shared with us, and with area newspapers, his first hand experience of such ships and his knowledge about oil companies' attitudes toward oil spills.

11) **Ted Loder**, Professor of Oceanography, did on site studies of N.H.' s ocean currents, showing on maps the actual speed and direction in which an oil spill at the Isles of Shoals would drift. The data showed that the drift would be to N.H.'s own Seabrook Nuclear Plant and to the Massachusetts coast. (This study alarmed both the N.H. and Mass, legislatures.)

12) **Loren ("Dave") Meeker**, Professor of Mathematics, did a careful statistical study of the frequencies of accidental oil spills from tanker ships. His report created considerable public interest statewide.

13) **Bruce Miller**, of the Seagrant Marine Advisory Group, reported on the economic value of N.H.'s aquaculture, fishing, boating and coastal tourism industries.

14) **Sam Reid**, Professor of Economics, reported on oil refinery economics and their effects on local economies.

15) **Alex Shigo**, Professor of Forestry, calculated, based on the proposed refinery's size, the amount and chemical types of air pollutants the refinery would emit. His data concluded that Durham Point's forests would die.

16) **Gael Ulrich**, Professor of Chemical Engineering, was of invaluable help to our committee. His slides and maps showed the gargantuan size the refinery would occupy on 3,000 acres in Durham. Most importantly, with knowledge himself of refineries, Gael did a technical evaluation of the "Purvin & Gertz Report," the Onassis team's voluminous refinery proposal, a proposal which left many technical, economic and pollution questions unanswered.

In closing my talk, let me say that collectively the members of the SOS Technical Committee changed forever both local and state awareness of the need to protect our irreplaceable natural resources.