

PARRY, ROBERTSON & DALY,
Twin Falls, Idaho.

Re Senate bill No. 1267—Sawtooth national recreation bill.

Hon. LEN B. JORDAN,
U.S. Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JORDAN: When I testified concerning the previous version of the above bill in Sun Valley in June of 1966, I was greatly concerned as to the unlimited right of condemnation allowed to the Government by the provisions of the bill then under consideration. From the remarks made by the Senators at the Sun Valley hearing, I believe that it was their intention that the power of condemnation would be restricted in any final legislation that was passed on this subject; and I think that it was your intention and the intention of Senator Church that S. 1267 should contain some restrictions on the power of condemnation of private property in Sawtooth Valley.

When one reads Section 5(a) of S. 1267, he gains the impression that there will be some limitation on the power of condemnation which is generally granted in Section 4. A close reading of all of Section 5, however, fails to reveal even an implied limitation on this power. I think that the verbally expressed intention of the sponsors of this Bill should be unequivocally stated by amending Section 5(a) of the Bill to read as follows:

Section 5(a). The authority of the Secretary to acquire an interest in private property by condemnation shall be limited to the acquisition of scenic easements and easements for access to and utilization of public property as in this Section described.

This amendment is, I am sure, of utmost importance to all property owners in the valley, and I hope that you will give it your personal and earnest consideration. A letter of import similar to this is being written to Senator Church.

Very truly yours,

T. M. ROBERTSON.

Senator JORDAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Senator BIBLE. The next witness is the Honorable James A. McClure, a Representative from the First District of Idaho.

Is Congressman McClure here?

(No response.)

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is the Honorable Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, accompanied by Hon. Edward P. Cliff, Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

You may proceed.

STATEMENT OF HON. ORVILLE L. FREEMAN, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE; ACCOMPANIED BY EDWARD P. CLIFF, CHIEF OF THE FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Secretary FREEMAN. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am here to give my wholehearted support to S. 1267. This bill will establish as the Sawtooth National Recreation Area some 351,000 acres of magnificent country in Idaho at the source of the Salmon River and in the rugged mountains and valleys of the Sawtooth Range.

Having camped in the Sawtooth Mountains 3 years ago, and, as Senator Church said a few moments ago, having just returned from a delightful trip down a portion of the Salmon River, I can personally attest to the superb recreation qualities of this area. The abundance of other natural resources, the history of the area, and the opportunities for a variety of outdoor experiences combine to give the area a tremendous recreation and education potential. Its recognition and development will strengthen the area's rural economy.