

But I wanted you to make a very clear record on this. It strikes me that the two Senators from Idaho have brought this committee a bill that is very ideally situated to this particular area and the problems that it has and the conflicting interest that it has. And I think they are to be commended for it. I know the sentence in your official report that says there is nothing in the creating of this bill that shall preclude later consideration for the creation of a national park. I don't suppose there is anything to prevent some future Congress from creating a national park with its more restrictive limitations. And maybe we have to wait and see how this works out. But I would hope that the area that has been worked out here after so many years and months of painstaking effort on the part of Senator Church and Senator Jordan is not to be taken as another halfway step to what somebody ultimately hopes to create out of this area. I hope we are getting the job done when we finish it. I don't know whether we are or not. I don't know whether or not your paragraph means that.

Mr. CRAFTS. That paragraph, as I understand and interpret it, Senator Bible, is a reflection of the interest of the National Parks Advisory Board which I have described, a reflection of the thought that maybe some years in the future, I don't know whether it will be 10 or 20 years, or how long it might be, when the demands for the use of our wild lands are such that this area might again be promoted as a national park, it is not intended to indicate that there will be an immediate proposal for a national park in this area in the next year or two. It is recognition of the superlative character of this area. This area in many ways is not much different than the Grand Tetons and the Jackson Valley that lie a couple of hundred miles to the east. This is a reflection of the high quality and caliber of the area. It is not intended to be a block or a hazard in the progression of this bill to the Congress, or a suggestion that there would be an immediate change proposed in the next several years.

Senator BIBLE. I am happy to hear that, because we are acting in good faith. And certainly the people who have holdings in this area should be convinced and persuaded that when we create this creation area we are not going to use that as a stepping stone to create a national park just a few years hence, and then undo something which we have carefully written and guaranteed and almost contracted that we would do in this bill.

This is what I am trying to say, because this led, as you very, very well know, to probably 50 years of problems in the Grand Tetons? And I don't want to have this happen again. I hope that it will last for many, many years, I won't say forever, because forever is a long time, but at the—at least for the near future, that is the way this area should be created, operated, and maintained, this is my impression from the witnesses of the Senators from Idaho.

And they are here and they can speak for themselves.

Senator CHURCH. I appreciate your saying that, Senator Bible. And I think Senator Jordan will agree. We believe this is the best solution, the best plan for the area. And this is the plan that we are endorsing and supporting. We joined in working out this proposed legislation as the best answer.

I do want to say, however, Ed, that I think the Department of Interior and the Secretary, is to be commended highly for having reached an understanding with the Secretary of Agriculture on this