In January of this year, the Department of the Interior released a report, "Recreation Land Price Escalation," which includes several recommendations and details a proposed 10-year program. Copies of this report were supplied the Senate and House Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs at the time of its release.

The two main problems are: (1) the need to have an adequate amount of funds to purchase park and recreation lands and waters before they are priced out of reach or committed irretrievably to other uses, and (2) the need to acquire property as quickly as possible after congressional or State authorization of park and recreation areas.

S. 1401 will do three principal things to meet these problems: (1) it will add for a limited time additional sources of revenue to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Federal and State property acquisition; (2) authorize the head of the department concerned to contract, under certain restrictions, for the acquisition of property within authorized areas in advance of the actual appropriation of moneys from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for such acquisition; and (3) authorize a lease-back and sell-back land management program for the property acquired for the National Park System under which the moneys received from the lease and sell-back transactions would be credited to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, thereby lessening the burden imposed on the Fund by the initial property acquisition.

Section 1(a) of S. 1401 adds to the Land and Water Conservation Fund the following revenues received on and after July 1, 1967, and prior to July 1, 1972: (1) the unearmarked receipts under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (except revenues from lands within naval petroleum reserves); (2) the receipts under Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 (including the funds held in escrow under an interim agreement of October 12, 1956, between the United States and Louisiana, to the extent the United States is determined to be entitled to such escrow funds); and (3) unearmarked receipts from the national forests to the extent all such revenues otherwise would be deposited in miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury.

The 89th Congress authorized 23 new Federal recreation areas involving the acquisition of about 250,000 acres at an estimated cost of $119 million. Among the outstanding of these are the following: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area in California; Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland and Virginia; Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan; Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas; Cape Lookout National Seashore in North Carolina; Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in West Virginia; and Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area in Virginia.

Some further significant additions were recommended by the President in his January 30, 1967, message to the Congress. These included a Redwood National Park in northern California, a national park and recreation area in the North Cascades area of Washington, a Potomac Valley Park in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, an Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Wisconsin, and several national parks and recreation areas previously proposed. He also renewed his recommendation for a national scenic rivers system and a nationwide system of trails.

The appropriation authorizations in existing laws for the acquisition of property for the National Park System, for which funds have not yet been appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, total $89 million. In addition, it is estimated that increases in existing statutory appropriation authorizations, and appropriations for areas where there are no statutory limitations on the amount authorized to be appropriated, will bring the amount needed for existing areas to about $318 million.[1] Furthermore, appropriation authorizations for new areas will create additional fund needs. Our current best estimate of the acquisition costs for those new areas for which we are supporting authorizing legislation now pending before the 90th Congress is about $160 million.

The Department of the Interior last January in its land price escalation report estimated total Federal and State needs under the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the next 10 years at about $3.6 billion and estimated revenues at $987

[1] This figure does not include any amount above the present authorization ceiling for land acquisition for the Point Reyes National Seashore.