

for all Americans—is beyond criticism. That purpose can only be realized through careful planning and through the expenditure of money, and the Congress provided for both when it passed the Act.

The Department of the Army supports the general principles embodied in the admission and user charge provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, and intends to implement the provisions of the Act fairly and equitably, consistent with the regulations promulgated by the Department of the Interior.

It is recognized, of course, that there may be imperfections in this Department's implementation of these provisions, and that there are practical, but as yet undefined limits in the application of the admission and user charge concept to Department of the Army projects. However, it is considered that the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act is as yet not fully tested, and should not now be limited in its application.

Insofar as the second prohibition is concerned, that relating to the charging of fees for permits to construct floating facilities, which fees are not charged under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, but, rather, pursuant to other authority, the attention of the Committee is called to his Department's opposition report, submitted to the Committee on Public Works, United States Senate, on S. 2236, 90th Congress, a bill "To prohibit the Secretary of the Army from charging fees in connection with permits for certain floating facilities." A copy of the report is inclosed for your convenience.

In this regard, it is noted that, subsequent to the submission of the report, the imposition of the new schedule of charges for docking and floating facilities, has been extended from the January 1, 1968 date given in the report to January 1, 1969.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this report to the Committee.

Sincerely,

STANLEY R. RESOR,
Secretary of the Army.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D.C., September 26, 1967.

Hon. JENNINGS RANDOLPH,
Chairman, Committee on Public Works,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request for the views of the Department of the Army with respect to S. 2236, 90th Congress, a bill "To prohibit the Secretary of the Army from charging fees in connection with permits for certain floating facilities."

The general purpose of this bill is as stated in its title. More specifically it would prohibit the Secretary of the Army from collecting any fee or charge for the issuance of any permit or license for any private boat mooring facility, duck blind, ski-jump float, swimming or diving platform or raft, or any other similar floating facility on any of the waters of any project administered by the Secretary of the Army acting through the Chief of Engineers. It would not, however, prohibit the requirement of a permit or license for such floating facility.

The Department of the Army is opposed to the enactment of this bill.

In consonance with the Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended, the Department of the Army provides for construction and operation of public park and recreational facilities by local interests; and, in addition, where public requirements justify, provides for operation of commercial concession facilities. The operators of the concession facilities are required to furnish specified services and facilities supplied by commercial concessionaires, individuals have organized business. The rates and prices charged the public by the operators are approved by the responsible United States Army Engineer District. Thus, the public can rely upon the availability of services and facilities at reasonable rates.

In addition to the boat docks, marinas, lodging accommodations and other facilities supplied by commercial concessionaires, individuals have organized yacht and boat clubs, and sailing clubs, in lieu of patronizing the commercial establishments. The need for the use of Government lands along the waterfront by clubs for such purposes as the storage of boats and the sale of oil and gas to club members has been recognized. However, it has been concluded that rentals should be obtained from the clubs commensurate with the privileges granted. This policy recognizes the need for such clubs, while also affording some protection to con-