

This applies not only to Oklahoma but all States similarly located. To my mind, it is wrong to station soldiers or employees at gates of projects, implying by their presence total restriction and regulation, resulting in all the natural consequences that strict regulation implies.

There is always the possibility that additional wardens will have to police the areas to stop the fee jumpers. If the Corps of Engineers contemplates strict control of parks and camping facilities, we should also consider the extra cost of fencing and policing all the areas now budgeted, contemplated, or constructed.

The whole idea is wrong, to me. It is an imposition; it is unjust; creates a potentiality of greater evils than the public good that could be generated.

I feel very strongly that the creation of water facilities with attendant camping and recreational areas should be held in trust for the public. To do otherwise is to create a regulatory system at increased cost and in some cases multiple taxation to the American people. I believe the committee should carefully weigh all these factors. The use of these facilities, and the waters involved, as well as the use of all that pertaining to these projects, is a trust with an inalienable right vested in the American people.

I urge you to report favorably on passage of S. 2828 and repeal this admission charge and use charge that is now being imposed at our public lakes constructed by the Army Engineers.

I thank the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Monroney.

(The statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. A. S. MIKE MONRONEY, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. Chairman, able members of the committee, I am very happy to appear here to give you my views on S. 2828, co-sponsored by Mr. Harris, Mr. McClellan, and myself. This is a subject about which I feel very strongly, and I am happy to have the opportunity to tell you of my feelings.

Let me also say at the outset that Senator Harris and I have co-sponsored another bill now pending before the Senate Public Works Committee's Subcommittee on Flood Control, Rivers and Harbors which has as its purpose the removal of fees pertaining to floating facilities as those fees will be collected by the Corps of Engineers.

While I believe S. 2828 here under consideration encompasses the terms of the other bill, I am still supporting S. 2236.

I believe that our bill under consideration here today is more far-reaching and all inclusive, and I support it because of my firm conviction that the American public should not be required to pay additional funds for the use of waters impounded or controlled by the Corps of Engineers.

The terms of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 as it specifically relates to the collection of fees for entrance, admission, or otherwise as it relates to public user fees charged or collected around Corps projects should, therefore, be revised.

The water projects built by the Corps of Engineers have been, and are being, constructed with public funds and to my mind the projects belong to the public. These projects have had as their primary purpose flood control, navigation, power generation, and other uses all of which are primarily aimed at being investments in our natural resources.

The projects attempt to make maximum use of the waters of our country, and generally there is computed in the cost of these projects a certain return measured in terms of prevention of loss by flooding, crop or structure damage, as well as the direct income received from the generation of power.

To my understanding, nowhere in Congressional consideration of these projects has there been contemplated the collection of fees charged recreational users