

I would hope, Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, that there soon might be some general reconsideration of the entire fee structure and fee power allowed by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act outside the jurisdiction of this bill which has only to do with the Corps of Engineers projects, because since the program was implemented in 1965, according to figures furnished to this committee and to me and others, recreation permits and entrance and user fees, I am informed, have accounted for only 8.9 percent of the total trust fund. The remaining 91.1 percent was derived through the sale of surplus property and motorboat fuel taxes. It would appear that we are going to a great deal of trouble to collect such a small amount of money.

The figures I have cited do not take into consideration the particular cost incurred by the Corps of Engineers in administering the collection of entrance and user fees to projects under their jurisdiction.

The bill, S. 2828, is a companion measure to a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Edmondson of Oklahoma, on which hearings have been held by the House Public Works Committee.

On September 21, 1967, Lt. Col. William Needham, of the Army Corps of Engineers, advised our colleague from Oklahoma, Congressman Edmondson, by letter that a total of \$594,174 had been collected in entrance fees at designated fee areas during the period from April 1 through August 31, 1967.

Mr. Edmondson and the distinguished majority leader of the House of Representatives, Mr. Albert, also our colleague from Oklahoma, were told recently by top officials in the Corps of Engineers that approximately \$600,000 had been spent by the Army Engineers out of their appropriated funds during this same summer, 1967, to employ additional rangers and personnel in an effort to collect entrance fees at these reservoirs and recreation areas.

Thus, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the cost of administration exceeded the revenues collected.

Not only is it expensive to administer this program, it is also practically impossible to collect the fees efficiently and fairly on a reservoir which has many miles of shoreline and many recreational areas.

For instance, many people utilize the recreational facilities in and around these reservoirs without paying an entrance or user fee or without the purchase of the so-called Golden Eagle, while at the same time others pay entrance or user fees or pay \$7 for the Golden Eagle certificate.

The deputy district engineer of the Corps of Engineers at Little Rock, Ark., pointed out this difficulty in a recent letter when he said, "Many of our park use areas have several entrances. The cost of enforcement with sentries at each entrance would be in excess of three times the present cost. We therefore feel that continuing our present program of advising the public of the fee requirements through the news media, of posting all entrances to fee areas and of checking the areas on a cyclical basis are the best means of enforcing the entrance fee system."

The fact is, short of fencing the entire shoreline of the reservoirs, there is no practical or efficient way to collect entrance fees at these areas. The Army Engineers recognize this and the general public knows this and more and more Members of Congress, I feel and I hope, are coming to recognize it, as well.