

much profit for themselves as they can garner. Their activity drives the price of property up. They will not sell out cheaply and condemnation actions often result in an unreasonably high valuation. Coupled with the prevailing general increase in property values, as amplified by land speculators, the problem is enormous. The general upswing in the price of rural lands has been about 300 per cent between 1945 and 1965. The Forest Service is now paying on the average about five times more than it paid for equivalent land in 1950. The Park Service reports that an average increase of six percent a year on lands in established areas in the East and ten per cent in the West is not uncommon. If this trend continues, the cost of lands will double in the next ten years. By the time the government is in a position to consummate the actual purchases, the funds originally appropriated are inadequate. This necessitates further delay, or in some cases, failure to procure the desired land.

There is a simple and straightforward answer to this dilemma. We must have adequate funds in the Land and Water Conservation Fund to allow the speedy acquisition and development of property once a National Park or Recreation Area is authorized by Congress. We must purchase needed land before speculation and inflationary trends make initial authorizations unrealistic. Money must be available for the acquisition of options, and the exercise of the options before they expire. Time is a great factor, not only in saving money, but also, in accomplishing realistic conservation objectives. It is mandatory to acquire lands before they can be turned into wastelands by private interests in search of the profits which may be unavailable once a park is created.

With our ever-increasing population we must develop and protect our national outdoor heritage for ourselves and for future generations now. Soon it will be too late. A tree which took 2,000 years to grow, once cut, will not be replaced for another 2,000 years.

In January I introduced in Congress a bill, S. 531, which will provide the funds necessary to allow the establishment of a truly great system of state and national parks. I have proposed that the monies realized from the leasing of the outer continental shelf, and from certain other mining leases, to the extent that they would otherwise go into the Treasury's "miscellaneous receipts," be placed in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These revenues have averaged \$100 million per year over the past ten years. On occasion they have exceeded \$300 million in a single year. These monies are the earnings of the people of America from their natural resources. It seems appropriate that they should be returned to the people in the form of an enhanced national recreation and conservation program.

This approach was used by the State of California when faced with a similar problem. Over 20 years ago California began financing its state park system with its tidelands oil revenues. Until recently, 70 percent of these revenues were allocated to the State Division of Beaches and Parks. These funds helped the people of California to build an unequalled state park system. California has provided state parks, campgrounds, recreation areas, beaches, marinas, and similar facilities with the aid of these offshore oil revenues. Few of these facilities or areas would have been possible without the tidelands funds. Some have asked whether this program was a worthwhile investment. To me, the enjoyment of millions of people is certainly an extremely sound investment. I trust that Congress will learn from the California experience and provide the necessary funds to accomplish our great conservation and recreation programs before more precious time is lost.

SUPPORT FOR S. 531 AND S. 1401

I am happy to report that my bill, S. 531, has received substantial and enthusiastic support both from conservation groups around the country and from many of my colleagues in the Senate. The bill has been co-sponsored by Senators Brewster of Maryland, Clark and Scott of Pennsylvania, Gruening of Alaska, Inouye of Hawaii, Long of Missouri, Metcalf of Montana, Morse of Oregon, Moss of Utah, Nelson of Wisconsin, Tydings of Maryland, and Yarborough of Texas.

The principle of devoting revenues from leasing the outer continental shelf to recreational uses is also incorporated into S. 1401, introduced in the Senate early in April by Senator Jackson of Washington and co-sponsored by Senators Anderson of New Mexico, Nelson of Wisconsin, and myself. S. 1401 also would send the unallocated portion of Forest Service receipts into the Land and Water Conservation Fund and would allow limited contractual obligations to be undertaken in advance of appropriations, as well as authorizing "inverted scenic