

(The data referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. HOWARD W. CANNON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to support the objectives of S. 1401, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

Too often in these troubled times, we are inclined to concentrate our mental and physical resources on the elementary concern of survival. As our population grows—in our rush to build a better life for our families—cities and towns expand tremendously. Land is gobbled up, trees are torn down, waterways become mere transportation routes or sewers. As local patches of forests and woods are torn down for industry or housing projects, families must wander farther and farther away from their homes to find beauty, nature, and even solitude.

Our existing national parks are becoming overcrowded as families run to these few refuges to find a few days of solitude and recreation, only to find themselves one of a mob looking for the same thing.

Just recently in California, Yosemite Park discontinued its world famous nightly "Firefall" because the park was becoming overcrowded.

In my own State of Nevada, the Lake Tahoe area, which 15 to 20 years ago offered beauty, recreational benefits, tranquility, and seclusion, now finds thousands upon thousands of visitors bumping into each other seeking these benefits.

Let's face it—we are using up our land, using up our natural resources rapidly. Our future generations will find themselves with few places to go if we cannot retain for them the parks, seashores, and wilderness areas they are entitled to as part of their heritage.

Congress and the Government are aware of this, of course. We acted in 1965 to set up a land and water conservation fund so that State and Federal agencies could buy and develop recreational lands and waters for present and future generations of Americans.

Unfortunately these sources are proving to be inadequate for our growing needs. The 89th Congress alone has authorized 23 additional recreation areas requiring the acquisition of 250,000 acres at an estimated cost of \$119 million. It is estimated that over the next 10 years \$2½ billion of Federal assistance will be needed by the States to help acquire and develop projects. Of course, land values will continue to go up, thus making prices go up in these intervening years.

The gap between monies authorized and actual amounts funded is widening each year. Clearly, we must find additional sources of revenue.

S. 1401 would help by providing new funding sources and authorizing advance land purchases in certain instances. The bill calls, in part, for adding to the conservation fund, revenues accruing from Continental Shelf oil.

To help cut down rising land costs due to speculative activities the bill calls for advanced land purchase contract authority. This would allow agencies to go ahead with mapping and other acquisition planning during the period between authorization of funds for an area and appropriation. This is the time period, usually nine or more months, when land values rise sharply in anticipation of Government purchase.

If this Nation is to continue planning for future generations, this is the type program and authority it needs to keep pace with the population's growing demand for conservation and recreation.

STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD V. LONG, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to express my support for S. 1401, legislation to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, through a program effective January 1, 1965, has provided a continuing source of money to help provide expanded local, State and Federal outdoor recreation opportunities. To this date, appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund program have totaled \$352,312,239. Of this amount \$131,152,431 have been for Federal programs and \$214,314,808 for State programs.