

proposal to involve funds from the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 or the national forest receipts. The advance appropriation authorization that is now in the fund act would be repealed following fiscal year 1969.

Under the bill as introduced and also as recommended, there are two other provisions that deserve mention.

The first would provide for 2 years advance contract authority up to \$30 million per year for the acquisition of property within authorized areas. Such authority will enable the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to negotiate land purchase contracts as soon as new recreation areas are authorized or in other authorized areas where there is need to move swiftly.

This has been one of our problems; the committee has worried along with us on it. We, in effect, would be given authority to move swiftly with a type of contract negotiation and work such as a real estate operator would engage in if he were acquiring land and trying to do it as quickly and as cheaply as possible.

The need for advance land purchase contract authority for Federal agencies participating in the land and water conservation fund arises from the normally unavoidable time lag between authorization of an area by Congress and the first appropriation for such area, a lag which for recent authorizations has averaged about 9 months. This is a critical period when land values often rise most sharply.

If we can move in and put out some of the fires of speculation before they begin, we believe we could save millions of dollars if this authority is granted.

The escalation problem would be reduced and substantial saving made if agencies were authorized to proceed with mapping, land title search, and other acquisition planning, and to acquire quickly or obtain options for key recreation tracts most in danger of rising land values.

Section 2 of S. 1401 also authorizes the sale or lease of certain property within a park or recreation area subject to conditions that assure compatible uses.

We believe that a recreation environment can be maintained within parks or recreation areas without total Federal ownership, so long as controls exist to assure compatible private uses. I believe there is sufficient protective language in the bill to prevent unwise or indiscriminate sale or lease of National Park lands. This policy is applied at Cape Cod, where residential uses are permitted to remain, subject to assurances that no adverse change in use would occur.