

With the project office located 20 miles from the most remote area and an average distance of 6 miles between areas, the administrative problems are evident. It is not practicable to assure payment by all visitors because complete coverage by rangers at all times cannot be economically justified.

Persons who do not pay when contacted by a Ranger, or who do not have in their possession a satisfactory permit, are issued a notice of violation. If after 20 days they have not furnished the number of their permit or made the necessary payment, the violation is turned over to the U.S. Attorney for prosecution.

Approximately 30,000 notices of violation were issued at corps fee areas up to September 30, 1967. Sufficient time has not elapsed to determine the effectiveness of the followup action by the U.S. attorneys. We have found that many of them are not able to schedule these actions in already busy calendars. Working through the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation we intend to take steps to improve these enforcement procedures with the Department of Justice.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act provides for entrance, admission, and user fees. At corps projects the only fee now imposed is the entrance fee. Admission fees have been interpreted to mean fees imposed to view performances or exhibits which are not pertinent to corps projects.

User fees have thus far been interpreted by the Army Engineers to be applicable to personal services or supplies and utilities which are provided at corps projects only by concessionaires or lessees who are permitted to charge therefor within the limits specified by the regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.

There have been objections raised to the imposition of entrance fees. Most of the complaints have been that the fee constitutes a tax, a dual charge for facilities provided at taxpayer expense, a discrimination against the poor, a violation of the traditional concept of free use of Federal waters, or a charge for the bounties of nature.

Complaints have also been raised by nonprofit organizations who have regularly used or wish to use a fee area for a group assembly of civic value, such as church groups and Rotary Clubs.

It should also be noted that there has been comment in favor of the charge as providing a "desirable" measure of exclusiveness, in reducing vandalism, and in improved management.

If the entrance fee provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act are rescinded, as proposed in S. 2828 or other similar bills, it would place the Corps of Engineers in a position where it would be the only Federal agency excepted from the provisions of the act; it will have the effect of discouraging participation by States and other public agencies which usually rely on fees to meet part of their expenses and which would suffer competitively with free Federal areas; it would decrease income to the land and water conservation fund with resultant diminution of the desirable objectives of that fund; and it would be at variance with the congressionally accepted concept that services rendered to special beneficiaries should be self-sustaining to the fullest extent possible.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund—P.L. 88-578—provides for an integrated, coordinated program which involves every Federal agency with any significant responsibilities in the field of recreation.