

categories of personnel, ranging from the sale of permits by the secretary in the office as part of her duties to the checking by forest rangers or assistant rangers in the field.

We have not assigned anybody full time to the collection. Therefore, we don't have a very good record of the exact costs.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you had to add new people for this purpose?

Mr. CLIFF. We have not added new people specifically to collect fees. We have added people for overall administration of our growing recreation program, and everybody engaged in this program performs some functions in checking, meeting the people, and perhaps in selling permits.

We don't have precise information, but our estimates are that the costs range from about 15 to 25 percent of the collections.

In fiscal year 1967, we collected nearly \$2 million, \$1,983,000 to be exact. This year, up to the end of December, we collected a little over a million and half dollars. We are going to designate more areas and the collections should be up some during the next fiscal year.

We have agreed to make an analytical study for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, trying to pin down more precisely just how much time of all these different people is being spent on fee collections.

We have used short-cut methods such as the permit vending machines, which are similar to the parking lot vending machines and automatic gates—you put a coin in the slot, and the gate opens. We have tried private sales by entrepreneurs—our concessionaires, under bond. We have tried all these approaches to keep the collection costs down.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.
Senator Allott?

Senator ALLOTT. I have no questions.

Thank you very much, Mr. Cliff.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Cliff. We appreciate having your statement. You have been very helpful.

Mr. CLIFF. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD P. CLIFF, CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee, I am pleased to appear before this Committee to express the Department of Agriculture's continued support of the purposes and objectives of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

It is most appropriate now to consider the adequacy of the Fund. What many may have thought four years ago to be grossly exaggerated predictions of the future demands on the outdoor recreation resources of our Nation and the costs of adequately supplying those demands have, in fact, proven to be conservative estimates.

These are times when we as a Nation must tighten our collective belts. But these are times also when, as we strive to meet the basic needs of our people and the world, we must consider the need for each of us to get some relief from the stresses and strains of working and living in a highly competitive and technical environment. Our great natural resources with their outdoor recreation opportunities can, in large measure, provide that relief and renewal of body and spirit if available when needed.

Accompanying the acquisition and development of additional lands for outdoor recreation enjoyment is the realization of other public benefits of just as great importance—a stimulated rural economy, a new hope among the poverty stricken in certain rural areas, and new ties between rural and urban citizens and cultures. The Department of Agriculture is deeply concerned with and committed to achieving such an end.