

It offered great hope that the citizens of this rapidly urbanizing Nation would have open space, beauty and plan areas in amounts sufficient to meet the critical needs of both the present and the future.

The Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission nearly 10 years ago had documented the crisis developing in outdoor recreation. During the years since, we have become increasingly aware, sometimes to our discomfiture, of the tremendous social importance of recreation to our public health and well being.

The land and water conservation fund accelerated the outdoor recreation programs of the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife. Equally important, and I think perhaps even more important, it stimulated much-needed State and local action programs.

The States and many local units of government tooled up to do the job and are now busy buying and developing recreation land. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation has been doing an excellent job of organizing this new program and keeping it headed in the right direction.

Unfortunately, as we have heard this morning, actual revenues earmarked for the fund have fallen far short of estimates. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation had predicted that the fund would provide \$120 million annually to the States by 1968. But last year only \$54 million was apportioned among State and local units. To put it bluntly, we need more money.

I would not want to imply that the land and water conservation fund has been a failure; far from it. But despite the disappointing level of financing, the fund has many important accomplishments to its credit during the first 3 years of its intended 25 year life. Among these are:

1. The act has brought about closer coordination between Federal, State, and local outdoor recreation programs. The long-range planning requirements of all levels have led to better and clearer delineation of responsibilities and orderly approach to meeting overall needs.

2. The establishment of the formula for sharing Federal funds with the States now and local units of government, and the assignment of a pivotal role to State government, gave the program great vitality and has put cooperative federalism into practice. The program is working, and the States are moving forward in good faith. The fund has become one of the best examples of how Federal/State cooperative programs should function.

3. Under the stimulus of the act and of its progenitor, the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission report, major bond issues for recreation have been passed by 23 States.

The total in excess of \$1 billion. More than \$200 million is available for State cost sharing in local recreation projects. More than half of these bond issues have been approved since passage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

State cigarette taxes earmarked for outdoor recreation total another \$100 million. Pending bond issue, which have been approved by State legislatures and are awaiting action by voters, total \$319 million. Additional State financing proposals are in legislative hoppers.

4. It is important to point out that the fund act has stimulated many local funding programs, too. City, county, township, and regional