

But, even in light of our aggressive programs, we look to similar responsiveness and continuity from the Federal Government. State and local governments cannot satisfy the demand and need alone.

The intent of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, and the achieved coordinated Federal-State-Local effort cannot be permitted to regress. Our State programs are tenaciously integrated with authorized and proposed Federal projects and help.

I respectively submit that the Congressional cut-back, ordered on December 18, 1967, has occasioned the reduction of grants for recreation land acquisition and development in the amount of \$4.9 million, according to a Department of the Interior news release dated January 24, 1968. Now, this is not the kind of astronomical amount that we are generally conditioned to reading, but it is an important amount when the three "partners" are beginning to realize and see their plans surmount the tremendous task before us, the task of providing satisfactory, public outdoor recreational opportunities at all levels of political subdivisions.

I respectively refer to the Commonwealth's Oil and Gas Lease Fund, cited above, without which our State Park development program could not have received timely and effective acceleration. I liken that program and our two bond issues to the provisions of S. 1401, now before you. Passage of S. 1401, will generate immediate opportunity to acquire park and recreational lands before escalating prices makes it prohibitive to do so. The spiralling land costs are detrimentally effecting the entire program of acquisition and development, and the resolve to meet the needs of people is jeopardized.

I strongly recommend the enactment of S. 1401, with the considered amendments recommended by the Department of the Interior.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Symington has sent over a statement of Howard McIlrath, president of the Central Crossing Association of Table Rock Lake, Mo. That statement will be included at this point. (The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT BY HOWARD McILRATH, PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL CROSSING
ASSOCIATION OF TABLE ROCK LAKE, MO.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am Howard McIlrath from Shell Knob, Missouri. I have the honor and responsibility of serving the Central Crossing Association of Table Rock Lake as its President. This 8-year-old organization consists of those attempting to make a living, on or near the lake shores, together with other permanent residents who are retired, or not actively engaged in their own businesses, and sponsor members who are merchants and businesses in the area surrounding the lake, mostly within a 50-mile radius of our section of the lake area.

The Golden Eagle Access Program. Federal Impoundments differ greatly from National Parks and many National Forests. There are many more points of access at impoundments and this presents an impractical enforcement situation, at least an expensive enforcement situation. This condition could also lead to vigorous enforcement at one location and none, or almost none, at another location. This, when coupled with the vigorous opposition to payment of any fee to be allowed to have access to public property and especially to an area designated a public use area, in connection with a Federal Impoundment created with tax dollars, appropriated by Congress, with at least some consideration for the recreation opportunities it would provide, has established a very deep resentment against such fees. We have always maintained that since the receipts from this program do not go to the Corps of Engineers and a greatly enlarged personnel is required for anything more than a token enforcement, that the program is unwise from a practical standpoint. When we add the costs of motor vehicle equipment, uniforms, training and administration, this impractical situation becomes even more evident. Although we have been unable to get cost versus receipts figures, Representative Edmondson from Oklahoma has presented evidence to the House Flood Control Subcommittee to show that the total elimination of the Golden Eagle Access Fee program at Impoundments would reduce the grants under the Land and Water Conservation fund by only Two-Tenths (2/10) of one percent. We most vigorously oppose this program, at Federal Impoundments, in behalf of the almost 28,000 signers of the petitions which we submitted last September to the House Public Works Committee.