

I would like to offer one suggestion in regard to the authority for sale and leaseback of national park land to be granted to the Secretary of the Interior. I understand that this is intended primarily as a negotiating and acquisition tool in special circumstances. However, I would hope the legislative record would be clear that this was the intent and that no broad authority would be enacted to give some future administrator carte blanche in disposing of park land. Certainly, this authority should be limited to national recreation areas and not extended to national parks. As you know, the inholding problem is still a major one in many national parks and it would be a mistake to enact authority which might create problems in the future.

With this one reservation, I believe S. 1401 is a statesmanlike approach to a very major problem. All of us interested in parks and recreation are again in your debt for moving with dispatch, imagination and wisdom to meet the challenges of preserving and enhancing our national heritage.

Sincerely,

LAURANCE S. ROCKEFELLER.

The CHAIRMAN. The next witness is Mr. William Penn Mott, director of parks and recreation, State of California.

Mr. Mott, pleased to have you with us this afternoon.

**STATEMENT OF WILLIAM PENN MOTT, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS
AND RECREATION, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Mr. MOTT. Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that there is before your committee two bills pertaining to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act program, Senate bill 1401, introduced by Senator Henry M. Jackson, and Senate bill S. 531, introduced by Senator Thomas H. Kuchel.

I wish to speak in support of the concept which these two bills present, namely providing additional funds for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act program. July 1, 1967, marked the third year in which applications have been accepted in California for consideration under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act program. During this period in which \$11 million was available as California's share of this fund, we received applications for in excess of \$70 million worth of projects. In other words, the demand for funds exceeded the money available by more than 600 percent.

This demand for funds for land acquisition and capital improvement to meet the recreation demands in California is directly related to the rapid growth being experienced by the State. The California State Department of Finance estimated that the population of California as of January 1, 1968, was 19,774,000, an increase of more than 2 percent over the January 1, 1967, figure of 19,380,000. California's population has increased more than 4 percent during the period of its participation in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act program; however, during this same period our annual apportionment has actually decreased. Based upon an average increase in population of 2 percent a year, it is estimated that California's population will increase more than 20 percent in the next 10 years.

We find that even at the present time, our population is continuing to increase at the rate of approximately 1,000 people per month. With this growth rate, which is one of the fastest in the Nation, we are confident that the demand for land and water conservation funds will continue to outstrip the supply of these funds. Statistics gathered in California indicate that the local cities, counties, and special districts are capable of matching funds from the land and water conservation