

I tell you these things, Mr. Chairman, not just to brag about what we are doing, but to point out what we have been able to accomplish in partnership with you, because indeed, everything we have done has been done on a 50-50 matching basis with the Federal Government.

As one of the speakers a minute ago pointed out, it is nice to be right, but we were far righter than we wanted to be about what was going to happen to land prices and desirable land. The scary thing is that if we can't get it now—well, many rare and distinguished places will be at exorbitant prices. This puts a great pressure on us to go ahead, and go ahead promptly.

Actually, where Virginia got about \$4.3 million in the first period, we now find ourselves up for about \$3 million, and rightly or wrongly, this has had the Commonwealth build into its budget a correspondingly lower figure for the next biennial, so we would hope that this addition to the land and water conservation fund would encourage us to move ahead at State level.

I would like to point out, and I was interested that you mentioned this yourself a minute ago, that we have spent over 75 percent of our funds on land acquisition. I wish I could spend every cent of it on land acquisition, but as you know, you have to spend money on a few things to even acquire the land, but this is certainly the top priority with us. We may get some pressure later about not having developed it, but I will face that when I get to it. The problem is to get this land now.

So speaking as one of your partners in the excellent concept of the land and water conservation fund, I would like to urge the passage of your bill, S. 1401. It would perhaps double the amount of money for which Virginia might be eligible, and would be substantial encouragement to the General Assembly of Virginia, now in session, in doing its part of the total load.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, thank you for a very helpful statement Mr. Bemiss. The entire statement will be included in the record at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF FITZGERALD BEMISS, CHAIRMAN OF THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION OF
OUTDOOR RECREATION

My name is FitzGerald Bemiss. I am Chairman of the Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation. In 1964, as a member of the Senate of Virginia, I was patron of the Act which created the Virginia Outdoor Recreation Study Commission, and subsequently served as Chairman of the Study Commission. The Report of the Study Commission, entitled, "Virginia's Common Wealth" was the basis of the Virginia Outdoors Plan—a comprehensive and continuing program of action to protect and use wisely Virginia's outdoor recreation resources.

The extensive legislation recommended by the Study Commission was enacted by the 1966 General Assembly. On July 1, 1966, the Commission of Outdoor Recreation and the legislative acts supporting it became effective.

In the period of approximately 18 months since that time significant beginnings have been made on the Virginia Outdoors Plan. A booklet published by the Citizens Committee For The Virginia Outdoors Plan, entitled, "18 Months of Progress," tells what has been done in some detail. I shall leave a copy of this booklet with my statement. Major elements of progress on the Virginia Outdoors Plan have been—

1. Seven new State Parks—either acquired or in the first phase of acquisition. These are truly distinguished places, such as Mason Neck, just below Washington on the Potomac; False Cape, a rare strip of Atlantic Coast beach; Smith Mountain Lake near Roanoke; and Chippokes Plantation, a