

Senator KENNEDY. This is an important bill, and it is important because it comes at a critical time in our efforts to preserve and conserve our lands and waters.

As a nation, we have recognized the need to act vigorously to define and protect those areas in danger of being spoiled or lost forever. This recognition is due in large measure to the leadership of Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, and to the Secretary of the Interior who has served them both—Stewart Udall. It is equally due to the creative and concerned work of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and particularly to the efforts of its chairman, Senator Jackson.

Let me summarize the bill's three main provisions.

First, the size of the land and water conservation fund would be enlarged through deposit in it of rents and royalties from the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953;

Second, Federal department heads would be given advance land purchase contract authority, when participating in land and water conservation fund activities.

Third; the Secretary is given lease back and sell back authority. This is an imaginative provision. Under its terms, the Secretary could lease back or sell back property within a unit of the national park system whenever he is satisfied that the use of the property would hereafter be consistent with the purpose and character of the park. Estimates indicate that a sell back program could yield from 4 to 7 percent of the initial cost per year. Income from either of these programs would be returned to the land and water conservation fund—thus reducing net Federal expenditures.

These three principal provisions of S. 1401 are carefully designed to meet the problems delineated in last year's report on land price escalation, and as an example of how they work in a specific case, let me cite the experience of the Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts.

As authorized, the seashore was to comprise 44,600 acres. Sixteen million dollars was authorized, and eventually appropriated for the land acquisition program. To date, 22,569 acres on Cape Cod have been acquired, or are under contract to be acquired for inclusion in the national seashore.

Of the remaining 22,031 acres in non-Federal ownership, 8,271 are programed for acquisition. The remaining 13,760 will be acquired by donation or otherwise.

Unfortunately, the original \$16 million authorization has been exhausted. Because it has, all land purchasing has come to a halt. The land acquisition project office has been disbanded and the appraiser, the real estate negotiator, the attorney, the surveyors, and the clerical assistants have all been reassigned elsewhere. The halt in programed land acquisition is bad enough—but the loss of the personnel familiar with the cape and experienced in the local laws and regulations is equally unfortunate.

Last year, I introduced a bill (S. 2106) to raise the authorization ceiling for land acquisition at the Cape Cod National Seashore by \$12 million, to a total of \$28 million. This \$12 million would cover the costs of acquiring the remaining 8,271 acres of land.