

Senator CLARK. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Staisey.

**STATEMENT OF LEONARD B. STAISEY, VICE CHAIRMAN FOR
WATER AND AIR POLLUTION COMMITTEE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES**

Mr. STAISEY. Thank you very much, Senator Jackson and members of the committee. I want to thank you for allowing me to appear before you on behalf of the county commissioners across the country, and particularly for the National Association of Counties.

We have prepared a brief statement here, which I trust you will make part of your printed record.

Also, we have for inclusion in the record, Mr. Chairman, a study prepared by the National Association of Counties, which represents guidelines to local officials in this kind of project.

The CHAIRMAN. Your statement will be included in full at the end of your remarks and the study by the National Association of Counties will be placed in the files of the committee.

Mr. STAISEY. We certainly support S. 1401, and we from Allegheny County are somewhat characteristic, I think, in what is happening throughout America in this particular area.

In Allegheny County we are blessed by the fact that we have three great rivers, the Monongahela, the Allegheny, and the Ohio. This is a very unusual circumstance. Perhaps the most unusual thing is that we have never really taken advantage of this blessing, and one reason was because of our frequent floods. But this is now under control. The last great flood we had was in 1937.

The second reason for nondevelopment was a matter of pollution, and this now is under control. The people of Allegheny County have expended \$105 million for the establishment of an authority to clean up the waste which comes from our communities.

The third deterrent we have had in the development of our rivers for recreational purposes is the establishment of industry along the rivers. The present board of county commissioners is going to conduct a study to determine the operation and best use of this land so that we can conserve some of it for parks and recreational services. This progress has been made possible because we have had available to us Federal funds, and the same story is true as far as the acquisition of land is concerned.

Our county was 139 years old before we established the first park, North Park and South Park. Ours is a county of 750 square miles, 1,600,000 people, and we estimate we need 10 acres of land for every thousand people if we are going to meet the needs that will be called upon to respond to in the days to come.

In 1955 it became readily apparent that more open space and more recreation space was necessary in Allegheny County. At that time, through a combination of some gifts of land, through some of our great private foundations, through contributions by communities, through expenditures on behalf of the county, and through State and Federal funds, we were able to begin a system of regional parks.