

we do not envision a Utopia. It is already established in some areas—it is hard to envision programs more beneficial and efficacious than some of those presently administered by the Department of Agriculture—local control and true partnership have been the key to success.

Admittedly the extension of this climate to the total natural resource and environmental picture is a most ambitious project. But all of us believe in Americas possibilities—can we then doubt that we must succeed?

In order to hasten the day when this climate will prevail, the Landowners Protective Association will call together, in the near future, a conference of leaders of American Private Enterprise. This conference, to be known as the American Citizens Conference on Natural Environment and Resources, will have as its purpose:

(1) To appraise Land Acquisition Policies in light of some of the questions we have posed here today.

(2) Define the role which private enterprise has played in natural resource matters in the past—adjudicating the role in light of present problems

(3) Project the role which private enterprise might play under proper conditions.

(4) Provide a permanent conference with government at all levels—offering public authorities the vast human and material resources presently at the disposal of private enterprise.

(5) Promote and help to bring about a true partnership with government. I thank you for your time.

Senator BURDICK. C. R. Guthermuth, vice president, Wildlife Management Institute.

STATEMENT OF C. R. GUTERMUTH, VICE PRESIDENT, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Mr. GUTERMUTH. My statement is brief, but if it may be entered in full, I will touch on parts of it.

Senator BURDICK. Without objection, it will be made a part of the record in full.

Mr. GUTERMUTH. The institute is pleased to join with the other groups on S. 1401. Time has shown that the fund is in desperate need of revision. It is inadequate to do what Congress itself intended.

Congress has looked upon this fund as a simple means of financing new Federal projects rather than as a supplement to Federal activity in existence at the time the imaginative program was enacted, and finally, land acquisition costs have spiraled upward under the twin stimuli of routine legislative and appropriations delays and the inability of Federal agencies to contract in advance of appropriations for lands within authorized projects.

According to the Department's report on S. 1401, total Federal and State needs under the funds for the next 10 years would be \$3.6 billion. On a 5-year projection, the figure would be \$1.5 billion. This means that acceptance of the Department's recommendations for a 5-year, \$200 million fund program would leave the fund about one-half billion dollars short of the estimated need in that brief period of time.

Secondly, and this is not in criticism, we believe that 5 years might be too brief a time for Federal agencies to fully activate programs of land acquisition on authorized projects. Past experience has shown it takes a year or two for the agencies to staff themselves properly and get programs moving all the way down to the field level.

We realize and sympathize with the Department's observation in the report on S. 1401 that there are other demands on the budget, for defense and domestic programs. These matters are not taken lightly