

formidable in the future as it is today. My concern then is that the Congress make sure that the program amendments develop the kind of financial support and supply the other kinds of tools that will accelerate the national outdoor recreation program commensurate with the demonstrated need.

It is against this background that I express apprehension about the Department of the Interior's recommendations in its report on S. 1401. A principal conclusion of the Department's recreation land price report is that combined federal and state outdoor recreation projects needs during the 10-year period, fiscal year 1968-77, are estimated at \$3.6 billions in terms of 1966 dollars. Further complications, even at full funding, arise from the expected steady increase in the value of recreation land.

According to the Department's report on S. 1401, total federal and state needs under the Fund for the next 10 years would be about \$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. Secondly, and this is not meant in criticism, we believe that 5 years may be too brief a time for federal agencies to fully activate programs for land acquisition on authorized projects. Past experience has shown that it takes a year or two for the agencies to staff themselves properly and to get programs moving all the way down to the field level.

We realize and sympathize with the Department's observation in its report on S. 1401 that there are other demands on the budget for defense and domestic programs. These matters are not to be taken lightly, but it is only reasonable to assume that the defense items are mostly of a temporary nature and that they will decrease before long.

For this reason, I feel sure that the majority of conservationists would prefer to see the Fund Act amended as proposed in S. 1401 even if all of the money is not immediately forthcoming. The need has been demonstrated. The facts and figures are in reports and before the Committee. The \$200 million ceiling suggested in the Interior Department's report falls far short of what is known to be necessary. We would prefer to see the Act amended on the basis of what is right and proper rather than on the basis of an arbitrary and clearly inadequate ceiling.

By proper amendment of the Fund Act, the program would be assured of more adequate financial support when the overall federal fiscal situation permits. This would obviate the need for the Congress to consider further amendment of the Fund within 5 years or less. We earnestly believe that further amendments will be needed in the near future if the Department's suggestions are accepted without modification. This is not in criticism of the Interior Department, Mr. Chairman, the realities of the situation are recognized and understood.

We believe that the Congress should broaden the base of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, and we support the amendments suggested in S. 1401.

Senator BURDICK. Mr. Franklin Orth, executive vice president, National Rifle Association.

STATEMENT OF FRANK C. DANIELS, SECRETARY, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Mr. DANIELS. I am Frank Daniels, secretary of the National Rifle Association. I am representing Mr. Orth. Mr. Orth asked me to express his regrets to the committee. His duties required him to be in France for the opening of the Olympic games.

The National Rifle Association of America is highly pleased to have been extended the opportunity to appear before this committee in support of S. 1401, sponsored by the distinguished committee chairman and his esteemed colleagues, Senators Anderson, Kuchel, and Nelson. This bill would amend title I of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 by providing that certain revenues accruing to the United States through leasing of mineral rights under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 437; U.S.C. 181 et seq.) and under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 (67 Stat. 462; 43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) be assigned to the land and water conservation fund.