

The fund has greatly stimulated State and local planning, acquisition, and development of parks and related outdoor recreation areas. All of the States now have approved preliminary statewide outdoor recreation plans and 39 States have approved comprehensive revisions of these plans. We interpret this as evidence of the effectiveness of the program in achieving one of the objectives of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, which is to help the States and their political subdivisions to strengthen their own park and recreation programs.

In the first 3 years of the fund's operation, State and local obligations to match the Federal grants have totaled \$138.5 million for planning, acquisition, and development.

Many of the States, however, need to accelerate their programs for the same reasons that the Federal park and recreation agencies need to; namely, to acquire potential park and recreation lands before the opportunity to do so is lost.

The fact that park agencies at all levels of government are seeking accelerated allocations of money from the land and water conservation fund is, we believe, clear indication of the need to increase the revenue sources of the fund.

Estimates provided by the statewide outdoor recreation plans and by the principal Federal agencies concerned—National Park Service, Forest Service, and Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife—indicate that in the next 10 years the States will need from the fund \$2½ billion and the Federal agencies will need \$1 billion for the acquisition and development of public park and recreation areas. It appears, therefore, that the annual rate of allotments from the fund should be \$300 million instead of the \$200 million recommended by the administration. I believe that the suggested larger annual rate of funding is reasonable and desirable and I recommend that it be authorized.

As the Department of the Interior has indicated, authority for Federal agencies to contract for the acquisition of key properties as soon as possible after the Congress has authorized such national reservations would substantially help reduce the inroads of land speculators. I hope that the committee will favorably consider such land acquisition contractual authority.

And lastly, the recommendation of the Department of the Interior that in the areas of the national park system, the Government be authorized to sell back or lease back lands or interests in lands, insofar as consistent with the purposes specified for the parks by the Congress, seems to us a very practical and desirable measure. The continuation of farming, for instance, in some historical areas is desirable as a means of preserving the character of the scene that existed at the time of the historical event being commemorated. Sometimes it is as costly to purchase a partial interest in such farm properties as to purchase them in fee. Purchase of the property in fee and then leasing back or selling back to farming right, would accomplish preservation of the historic scene and permit significant saving of Federal funds.

I hope that the committee will give favorable consideration to this recommended procedure.

Senator BURDICK. Mr. Ray Agnew, executive vice president, National Camp Ground Owners Association.