

Contrary to recommendations of Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission.—This Commission in its report rendered to the President in 1964 recommended that the creation of recreation facilities by private enterprise should be encouraged and stimulated. More private facilities are needed to meet the rising demands of outdoor recreation. The provisions of S. 2828, making free campsites available, would negate the recommendation of the ORRRC Commission and would be contrary to recently established policies of the administration laid down in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

The passage of S. 2828 will well be a strong deterrent to private entrepreneurs to enter into the campground business and to that extent the creation of adequate future camping facilities will be discouraged.

Undesirable results from offering free camping facilities—overcrowding, slum conditions.—The offering of any commodity freely induces an abnormally high demand. We have seen what happens at national parks. Within most national parks camping is free. Some campgrounds are very crowded. Unsanitary and slum conditions develop. Some campers preempt space for extended periods of time because facilities are free while other campers who want to see the parks are inconvenienced.

The same conditions will prevail at Corps of Engineers campgrounds if no fees are charged.

In conclusion, we state that S. 2828 is a most undesirable piece of legislation, and we recommend to this committee that it be rejected.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Senator BURDICK. Thank you.

Senator HANSEN?

Senator HANSEN. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman.

Senator BURDICK. Charles Callison, of the National Audubon Society, has a statement.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES H. CALLISON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mr. CALLISON. When the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act was signed in 1964, the National Audubon Society hailed it as landmark legislation, a farsighted accomplishment for which the 88th Congress of the United States would be honored in history. Most other national conservation organizations, I recall, expressed similar judgments. Now, nearly 4 years later, I don't think we were wrong. We were not wrong, nor was the Congress, in our common conviction that if we were going to meet the outdoor recreation needs of our rapidly growing population, and if we were going to save some significant portion of the unspoiled landscape for the inspiration and refreshment of future generations, we had to act now—in this decade—with sufficient funds and a national determination to see the task to completion. We haven't changed our mind about it one whit since 1964. If anything, our sense of the compelling urgency of the program and purposes of the act has been strengthened—and Congress has itself demonstrated a determination to follow through by passing, in 1964 and since then, a series of acts establishing two new national parks, five new national seashore and lakeshore recreation areas, the Ozark National Scenic Riverways,