

Other estimates for land acquisition we have read are \$697 million for the national park system, \$10 million for a national trails system, and \$35 million over the next ten years for the national scenic rivers system. There are many other similar programs under consideration, as you well know. Government acquisitions of private land are reducing the tax base for further revenue for local as well as federal governments. The unnecessary removal of lands from the production of food and fiber is also a matter of grave concern in face of the predictions for serious world-wide shortages.

We feel that substantial cuts can be made in such non-essential spending without jeopardizing essential conservation programs, and we respectfully urge you to give extremely careful consideration to these acquisition problems in an effort to slow down or halt unnecessary or questionable expenditures.

Sincerely yours,

ROYCE G. Cox, *Chairman.*

Senator CHURCH. Our next witness is Mr. John R. Moulton, president of the Potomac Basin Federation.

**STATEMENT OF JOHN R. MOULTON, PRESIDENT, POTOMAC BASIN
FEDERATION, CHARLES TOWN, W. VA.**

Mr. MOULTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: I am John R. Moulton of Charles Town, W. Va. I am president of the Potomac Basin Federation, a voluntary association of citizens' groups from various parts of the Potomac Basin. Our member groups come from all four States of the basin, and all the way from Berkeley Springs, W. Va.; Front Royal, Va.; Chambersburg, Pa.; on down to Waldorf, Md.

I am also involved in recreation, and my farm in West Virginia includes a half mile of riverfront which has been open to the public without charge for over a quarter of a century. We feel this type of thing meets a great deal of need for public recreation without any expense to the Government.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to testify before you on Senate bill S. 1401 and the similar House bill H.R. 8578.

As we interpret the wording of these bills, the major purposes are to provide substantial additional sources of revenue for the land and water conservation fund by amending the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide that revenue under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 be put in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and by giving the Secretary of the Interior certain powers to dispose of Government-owned property. Our major interest is to protect the rights of private citizens against unnecessary encroachment by governmental agencies.

Secretary Udall, in a letter of January 4, 1968, to Senator Henry M. Jackson, states that the principal purpose of the bill is to help overcome the problem of the rapidly increasing cost of Federal and federally assisted park and recreation areas financed from the land and water conservation fund. He stressed the need to acquire land quickly after congressional authorization of park and recreation areas.

We accept this idea in principle, but we believe that the additional powers for independent action conveyed to the Secretary of the Interior by these bills need to be balanced by corresponding restrictions on certain possible uses and abuses of those powers which would work unnecessary hardship on private citizens.