

I believe this committee should adopt a general authorization bill in whatever amount it determines is necessary to insure the conservation of our land and water and to provide recreational facilities for our people.

I am sure that every member of the committee knows that our Government is faced with overwhelming demands upon its Treasury at this particular moment and the President's ability to respond to crises should not be impaired.

There are urgent needs in the matter of education, poverty, urban assistance, and many other pressing problems. I need not dwell upon the expenses of our Armed Forces and particularly the cost of the Vietnam war.

The war, and indeed these other programs that I mentioned above, impose demands upon the Nation which require complete freedom of action on the part of the President and Congress.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would reiterate my support of the objectives of this bill and I certainly acknowledge the necessity of acting now for additional authorization.

However, I am hopeful that the committee will agree to fund the programs out of the general receipts of the treasury. I assure the members of this committee that for my own part I will, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, give complete and sympathetic consideration to the requests made for funds.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as I previously stated, at a meeting in New Orleans just a few days ago, the congressional delegation selected Governor McKeithen to represent the State; that is, to make the statement representing the Louisiana point of view, and it is my great pleasure now, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, to present Gov. John J. McKeithen. As you know, he has been Governor now for almost 4 years, and he was recently elected for another 4-year term as Governor of Louisiana, and I may say in passing that he is one of the first Governors for a long time who has succeeded himself, and he has made us a good Governor, and I am sure you will be much interested in the statement that he will present to you.

The CHAIRMAN. Governor McKeithen, we are delighted to welcome you to the committee, and maybe you and Senator Long would like to come forward, now and offer your testimony.

Senator ELLENDER. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be excused. I have to preside at a meeting of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and I hope to be back before your committee recesses.

The CHAIRMAN. We understand.

Governor, won't you have a chair, and Senator Long?

Senator LONG. I will defer until you have heard the Governor, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN J. McKEITHEN, GOVERNOR, THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

Governor McKEITHEN. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I appreciate the courtesy of being permitted to testify here today concerning Senate bill 1401, a measure which is of the utmost concern