

to the people of Louisiana, and indeed the other 49 States of our Nation, and particularly those States that have coastlines.

Let me again make the position of Louisiana abundantly clear from the very outset. Louisiana does not oppose the philosophy set forth in the proposed legislation now pending before this committee.

Indeed we are in sympathy with the objectives of this legislation and that is, to acquire additional recreation facilities for the American people. Louisiana has for many years dedicated substantial amount of money to the development of parks and recreation areas, and we fully realize the necessity for and desirability of such expenditures.

In fact, Louisiana has benefited substantially from moneys derived from the land and water conservation fund.

Louisiana's objections to the pending bills are not directed toward their purposes, but rather toward the manner in which these purposes would be achieved. That is, by the utilization of a portion of the submerged lands receipts as supplemental financing for the land and water conservation fund.

We believe legislation of this kind could render impossible the formulation of a permanent program for the disposition of these revenues, to the prejudice of the long-range conservation objectives which I am sure all of us seek to achieve.

It is my purpose here today if I may, to outline, in general terms, some of the problems and inequities inherent in the bills now before this committee, to the extent they affect revenues derived from the submerged lands and to suggest for your serious consideration a long-range program relating to the prudent use of all of these funds.

Members of the Louisiana congressional delegation, whose testimony follows mine—you have just heard Senator Ellender—will deal with both of these topics in greater detail.

First and foremost, the measures now under consideration completely abandon the long established, and completely fair, national policy relative to the disposition of revenues derived from Federal lands.

This policy sanctioned by history and embedded in nearly a half century of Federal land policy allocates 37½ percent of the revenues derived from the public lands to the States, in lieu of taxes.

Another 52½ percent is allocated to the reclamation fund for the benefit of the 17 reclamation areas States, and the remaining 10 percent is retained by the Federal Government to cover the cost of administration, attendant to the production of the revenues allocated otherwise under the formula.

Louisiana believes that history, precedent, and basic considerations of fair play, require that this formula be extended to the Federal submerged lands adjacent to the coasts of our Nation. Indeed, the factors which prompted the Congress as long ago as 1919 to allocate receipts derived from the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, in the manner set forth above, are just as valid and compelling today, as they were 50 years ago.

Fundamentally we must all remember that today, as in 1920, we are dealing with proceeds derived from a wasting asset. Each barrel of oil produced from the submerged lands, each cubic foot of gas produced