APPENDIX A

(Under authority previously given, the following statements and communications were ordered printed:)

Statement of Russell E. Train, President, The Conservation Foundation

This statement is submitted on behalf of The Conservation Foundation, a private, non-profit research, education and information organization based in Washington, D.C., in response to a request for our views on S. 1401.

Interest of The Conservation Foundation in the subject of this hearing is rooted in our broad concern for environmental quality and follows the substantial efforts of the Citizens Committee for the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission Report (CORC), which was merged with The Conservation Foundation in 1965.

We believe that the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act is fundamentally sound legislation, reflecting goals vital to the American people. The legislation was the direct outgrowth of the signal efforts of a distinguished group of members of Congress and citizens comprising the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission whose chairman was Laurance Rockefeller. It was enacted to meet clearly defined national needs in line with a developing national outdoor recreation policy.

Much has been accomplished by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act in its first three years of operation. The three federal agencies concerned have acquired about 310,000 acres with an expenditure of $88 million from the Fund. Even more gratifying has been the surge of state and local activity stimulated by the Fund.

For example, with equal matching federal money, state and local governments have obligated $51 million to acquire 295,000 acres; $2.9 million for 69 state recreation planning projects, and $84.6 million for 1,667 facility development projects. Every state has developed a state-wide recreation plan under the impetus of the Fund Act, and increased coordination among and between state and local resource agencies has resulted in many cases.

However, financial difficulties brought on by inadequate revenues and rising recreation land prices threaten to seriously cripple the effectiveness of the Fund. S. 1401 seeks to cure these ills by adding new sources of revenue to the Fund and by providing several administrative mechanisms designed to combat escalating prices.

It is our belief, as outlined below, that, (1) S. 1401 should be passed substantially as written, and, (2) that further steps should also be taken to assure that the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 is able to serve the purpose for which Congress enacted it.

CRITICAL NEED FOR NEW REVENUE

During its first three years, the Fund received some $289 million in revenue, an amount far below the $367 million originally predicted for the period. Future prospects are even more discouraging. According to estimates contained in the January 1967 land price escalation study by the Department of the Interior, revenue from existing sources will total $987 million over the next ten years, while estimated state and federal needs from the fund will be $3.6 billion, resulting in a deficit of $2.7 billion; perhaps more if recreation land prices continue to escalate at their current rate of 5–10% a year. Thus, best available estimates indicate that the Land and Water Conservation Fund as now financed will be only 27% effective in the critical decade ahead.

Estimates of new revenue which would accrue to the Fund from enactment of S. 1401, as introduced, vary from $2 to $3 billion for the five year period covered. Outer Continental Shelf receipts are expected to account for between $400 and