

Recreational resources.—In fiscal year 1968, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation expects to complete the first Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan, which will provide a general guide for all outdoor recreational programs in the country.

Receipts of \$110 million are estimated to become available to the Land and Water Conservation Fund in fiscal year 1968, and an advance appropriation of \$32 million is recommended to augment the Fund. Together, these funds will enable Federal agencies and States to expand their recreation programs to provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities. Grants of \$65 million will be made from the Fund to the States for this purpose and \$74 million will be available for acquisition of recreation lands by the National Park Service, Forest Service, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Because of rising land prices, the budget proposes that all of the \$32 million advance appropriation to the Land and Water Conservation Fund be used by Federal agencies to accelerate land acquisition.

The 89th Congress enacted legislation to authorize a number of national seashores and other recreation areas. Additional areas are needed, however, in order to meet the growing recreational requirements of our people. Proposals are under study and recommendations will be made at a later date for the development of the North Cascades area in the State of Washington. Proposals are also under study to make the Potomac Valley a model of scenic and recreation values for the through resource conservation, improved production technology, capably, and marketing assistance, and programs to modernize the American fishing fleet. A significant advance will be made toward the solution of protein-deficient diets throughout the world with the construction in 1968 of a pilot plant for manufacturing fish protein concentrate.

Mineral resources.—The Bureau of Mines will continue research to expand mineral production and utilization, with increased attention to problems of air pollution and oil shale research. A new research program directed toward major improvements in tunneling technology will be initiated. If successful, this effort will be of major benefit to mining, urban transportation, water supply, and other public services.

Congressional approval will be sought, within the authority of the Helium Act Amendments of 1960, for the Secretary of the Interior to enter into long-term contracts in 1968 for the purchase of an additional 24 billion cubic feet of helium. This unique resource would otherwise be wasted as a component of natural gas being marketed as fuel.