

Mr. ROBERTS. \$170 million we are spending for roads and our whole total forest products total \$180 million. That does not make very good business. We would be better off just to leave the trees alone, would we not?

Mr. NELSON. The roads are an investment in the land that will have other needs and will be used for not only additional forest management and the removal of forest products, but by recreationists as well as for the protection of the lands and resources.

There are some areas we think it would be desirable to put in roads and would save us in the overall cost of firefighting, for example.

So a system of roads—actually if I recall right, if we looked at our receipts, counting the money that timber operators spend in the capital investment of roads as a receipt and subtract our costs of operation in the national forest, but looking at our capital investments the way a business does, and as a depreciation, we are operating the entire national forest system at about the cost that we are putting into it.

In fact, last year—I do not have my papers here, but last year there was about a \$2 million profit when you look at the outgo like a business does, of taking capital investments and considering that on a depreciation basis.

Mr. ROBERTS. You do not consider your administrative costs?

Mr. NELSON. That would have administrative costs in it.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROBERTS. Let me finish up this line, then I will be glad to yield.

How are you tied into the wilderness program? I get a conflict here, because I agree with you, we want to build roads; but to go out into the wilderness, they are not only building roads but they are plowing up existing airports they could use for firefighting, and the Government pays for it.

Mr. NELSON. The first wilderness setup in the United States was set up by the Forest Service in 1924, the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. We have some 15 million acres of national forest land at the present time either in the national wilderness system or in primitive areas that the Wilderness Act requires be studied to be put into the wilderness system, so we are deeply involved in the wilderness program and the whole wilderness system and Wilderness Act here.

There are a number of propositions before the Congress at the present time that are a result of the study of some of these primitive areas that would propose putting them into the national wilderness system.

Even in the wilderness system, as I indicated, it requires some authorizations such as in this bill, because the wilderness system is not very usable without a trail system. And all of the people who use the wilderness use trails. So it does take some funds, as authorized by this bill, for the trail system within the wilderness system.

Mr. ROBERTS. But you have a ruling that you cannot take a chainsaw or motorized equipment into the wilderness area, even if you have a heavy blowdown. Is this your ruling or your superiors' ruling? Even if somebody wants to go out and help, he cannot do it unless he wants to do it with a handsaw.

Mr. NELSON. I guess we would have to take part of the responsibility for that, but part of it I think would lay at the feet of Congress because the Wilderness Act does not allow the use of motorized equip-