

Senator Moss. Senator Hansen, do you have any questions of Mr. Wilson about the bill?

Senator HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe that I do. The few questions that did arise in my mind have already been posed by you and I have no further questions.

Senator Moss. Thank you. Do you have any questions, Senator Burdick?

Senator BURDICK. No questions.

Senator MOSS. Senator Hatfield?

Senator HATFIELD. I have no questions.

Senator MOSS. Thank you very much, Mr. Wilson.

We have one other witness, Mr. George Alderson, representing the Sierra Club. We will hear you, Mr. Alderson, and then we do have one other matter for Mr. Bill to testify on, but we will ask Mr. Alderson to come forward first.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE ALDERSON, REPRESENTING SIERRA CLUB

Mr. ALDERSON. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I am George Alderson, a resident of Logan, Utah, and presently on military duty in Washington, and I am appearing today on behalf of the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club supports the objectives of S. 26, to incorporate into Canyonlands National Park four key areas which were omitted when the park was established in 1964. We also recommend that S. 26 be amended to direct the Secretary of the Interior to report to Congress within 2 years on the areas in Canyonlands National Park which are suitable for designation as wilderness.

When Canyonlands National Park was proposed in 1962 the Sierra Club endorsed the proposal. It was the club's position then, as it is now, that the area surrounding the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers should be in a national park adequate to protect the integral features of this area. This expansive region of red-rock and rivers even now is just beginning to capture the national attention that it merits as one of the greatest and wildest parts of our Nation's scenic heritage. When the basic Canyonlands legislation took effect in 1964, much had been omitted that deserved and needed to be in the national park. We are pleased that support S. 26 as a first step toward remedying the deficiencies of the 1964 act.

The need for these additions is clear. If a park visitor drives on the park road to Island in the Sky and looks out over the White Rim and across the rivers toward the southwest, the view is almost beyond words, and mostly beyond the park boundary. Much of what park visitors find satisfying in the view is outside the control of the national park and without the protection a national park provides against incompatible uses. By contrast, the popular Dead Horse Point, which overlooks parts of Canyonlands Park, is outside the boundaries and is handled by the Utah State Park and Recreation Commission. Elsewhere the park boundaries leave major landforms half in, half out of the park, clearly a situation which complicates protection and administration. These are some of the problems that arose from the failure to include the entirety of the national park at the outset.