

(The report will be found on p. 52, pt. I.)
 Mr. TAYLOR. Our first witness is our colleague, Congressman Lloyd Meeds.

Congressman Meeds, you are back home, but we welcome you.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LLOYD MEEDS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
 CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

Mr. MEEDS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I want to apologize to the committee for not having my testimony in such shape that I could give it verbatim. I will, if the committee does not mind, read my statement at this time, which, incidentally, just came off the press.

Mr. Chairman, I want to express my appreciation to you, to Chairman Aspinall, and to my fellow committee members for taking time at this late hour in the session to hear congressional and department witnesses on the North Cascades legislation. I also wish to express my thanks once again to those members who made the long journey to Washington State to participate in the field hearings, some of whom came twice.

Nearly all the land proposed for national park status in H.R. 8970 and S. 1321 lies within the boundaries of my district. I am sponsoring H.R. 8970 because I believe strongly that the bill offers a balanced program of recreation for my constituents and for the American people.

Some 6 months before the North Cascades bills were introduced last year, the Boeing Aircraft Corp. announced plans to build its giant 747 aircraft near the city of Everett in Snohomish County. The impact of this new development is staggering. The Arthur D. Little Co. estimates that the population of the county will increase by more than 70,000 persons within just a few years. All of these new residents will desire adequate recreation.

Unlike the situation we faced with the Redwoods National Park, the North Cascades bill presents little or no obstacles of land acquisition. Most of the land in the proposed park and recreation areas is already federally owned.

As a matter of fact, I think the figure is 99.4 percent.

The Senate Interior Committee report indicates that the total cost of land acquisition would be only \$3.4 million.

Throughout the field hearings of the House and Senate committees, there has been apprehension voiced by some persons that the bills would be detrimental to the forest products industry. This criticism is well-intentioned but unfounded.

Again we have to compare the North Cascades bill to the Redwoods. At the present time, Mr. Chairman, there is no timber cutting going on or even planned for the area to be made into the national park and the national recreation area. The current administrator of the North Cascades, the U.S. Forest Service, has for years declared much of the timber "out of bounds" to cutting. In fact, about 80 percent of the lands covered by H.R. 8970 have never been included in the allowable cut. Much of the terrain here is above the timberline or is physically unsuited to logging.

According to the latest information I have, H.R. 8970 would reduce the annual allowable cut by roughly 6 million board feet. S. 1321, as