

The effort to bring together a comprehensive proposal for the protection of the natural country or the North Cascades mountains for the benefit of people everywhere has been a difficult endeavor. The various Government agencies and Congressional Committees which have concerned themselves with this problem are to be congratulated on their several contributions. The public interest, in my judgment, now requires that this project move ahead with all reasonable dispatch.

If you will review the testimony I submitted last year, you will see that the present Bill S. 1321 falls far short of response to those recommendations. On the other hand it is superior to other measures which have been introduced, as tested by these same standards, and the time has come when differences ought to be composed.

As we understand it, S. 1321 has at least the acceptance of both the Park Service and the Forest Service, and this is a tangible gain, gratifying to me because of the initiative I took several years ago to bring the agencies together in the hope of achieving a consensus.

I have tried to emphasize the importance of the protection of the foot and horse trail country in the Cascades; this is the thing which launched and sustained the strong movement of recent years for the protection of the Cascades; the proponents of the parks have not had in mind that the region should be filled up with roads and camp grounds, nor with helicopters or funiculars. I think that the protection of the region against mechanical intrusions will continue to be the main drive on the part of conservation organizations.

(Whereupon, the subcommittee proceeded to other business.)

(EDITOR'S NOTE.—The following proceedings were held before the full committee prior to markup of H.R. 8970:)