

rangers which were licensed hunters in the State of Wyoming. This we have adopted as a policy throughout the national park system. When we have a big reduction program where we need additional people, this is the procedure we now follow, but they are deputized park rangers. They may work with or without compensation. They hold a Federal appointment. It is not public recreational hunting.

This shows that the Park Service has adopted a policy of taking care of an overpopulation of big game. But it does not permit—and this is what I understand you object to—harvesting of the game in accordance with the State game laws but only under management control regulations, is that correct?

Mr. KIMBALL. Not exactly. I have been working with Director Hartzog on this problem and I think the Park Service is to be commended. I think this is final recognition of the fact that in these excess populations the wildlife needs to be managed and the surplus needs to be removed. But it is not classed as recreational hunting per se. Although the ultimate objective is still the same, the removal of the surplus, they are to be commended, and we recognize this is the primary difference. It is not recreational hunting in what was once a traditional hunting area.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me ask you this: How many licenses were sold for hunting in this area during the year 1967?

Mr. KIMBALL. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I do not have that information here. I would be happy to supply it, if it would be helpful.

The CHAIRMAN. You could not hunt without a license in this area?

Mr. KIMBALL. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. So the number of licenses would be the number of hunters, as far as that is concerned. About the only real opposition that we have had to this legislation has come from the sportsmen's groups. If we had some definite information as to those who take advantage of the opportunity, it would be helpful to us. The gentleman from California.

Mr. JOHNSON. If the Chairman would yield, Mr. Kimball, do I understand you to say that you are in favor of the Park Service taking these animals if there is an overpopulation within the national parks?

Mr. KIMBALL. Under the procedure that Director Hartzog presented to the committee; that is, where citizens would be deputized and permitted to assist in the removal. We have objected in the past to the fact that the removal has been done by park rangers. It is considerably more expensive, for one thing, and the same objective could be accomplished with citizen assistance.

Mr. JOHNSON. As I understand it, if there is any killing within the park itself, you would want it to be done by sportsmen who would be deputized to go in and take the game.

Mr. KIMBALL. Yes, we would hope it could be done that way. I realize in all instances this may not be possible. The Park Service, in our view, should have the right to determine this commensurate with protecting park values. We have discussed this before, and feel that this should be entirely at the discretion of the Park Service. We would certainly like to encourage them to do this whenever possible.

Mr. JOHNSON. I know all of the sportsmen's groups interested in the excess game problem in Yosemite National Park did not give their full approval. We have advocated that special hunts take place on land adjacent to the park to reduce the herd.