

This bill would authorize the Department of the Interior to acquire the Carl Sandburg home and farm in Flat Rock, N.C., and to administer it as a national historic site.

I strongly urge the Senate Interior Committee to act favorably on this measure. Carl Sandburg devoted his long and productive life to creating and reciting the epic that is America. He died at the age of 89, a man who would be accurately described as "more than the voice of America, more than the poet of its strength and genius. He was America." President Johnson so described him, and the tribute was heard a thousand times across the land, in different words but always with a like fervor. For Carl Sandburg preserved for posterity the spirit of America; his poems and biographies will always convey to future generations the traditions that made this Nation great.

The preservation of the home in which he lived for the last two decades of his life is the smallest token of esteem that we owe this monumental benefactor to the greatness of America.

Mrs. Sandburg has graciously offered to permit the U.S. Government to purchase Connemara at a price far lower than land values would dictate, and she will donate the furniture and memorabilia in the house so that it may be preserved substantially as it was during her husband's life.

S. 3050 is a companion bill to H.R. 13099, which was introduced in the House on September 25, 1967, by my North Carolina colleague, Congressman Roy A. Taylor.

The House Interior Committee has already conducted hearings on the House bill, and the measure was favorably reported on July 10, 1968 (H. Rept. 1676).

The House Interior Committee, in its report on H.R. 13099, recommended minor changes in the introduced bill in order to satisfy the current need for national economy. I recommend that this committee report the bill incorporating the House committee amendment to reduce the acreage to be obtained to 242 rather than 268, thereby lowering the acquisition costs very substantially.

The Department of the Interior has recommended the passage of this measure. I join with Secretary Udall and with the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in urging the passage of this bill during this Congress. By acquiring Connemara and accepting Mrs. Sandburg's gracious gift of the furniture and personal mementos in the house, we can pass on to the future the historic setting of Carl Sandburg's last years.

I would like to add to this statement that in my view it is highly important that this action be taken as soon as possible simply because of the fact that Mrs. Sandburg, who is a most gracious lady, is advanced in years. She is willing to make the gifts of these personal belongings, which would be of incalculable value, and if something should happen to her there might be great difficulty in obtaining anywhere near as favorable terms.

Congressman Taylor asked me to insert in the record a statement made by him which sets out the fact that the total outlay of money necessary at the present time for the acquisition of the property, would be \$225,000.

Senator Moss. \$225,000?