

Senator Moss. In a mountainous area of North Carolina; is that correct?

Senator ERVIN. That is right.

In other words, Carl Sandburg was a man who loved elbowroom; so he had quite a large body of land there.

Senator Moss. I see.

Senator ERVIN. I sincerely hope that the committee will take favorable action on this bill at the earliest possible moment.

Senator Moss. We appreciate that.

The Senator from Oregon, do you have any questions of the Senator?

Senator HATFIELD. No.

Senator Moss. Thank you very much, Senator Ervin. We were glad to have you, and glad to excuse you at this point.

Senator ERVIN. Thank you.

Senator Moss. Thank you. We will now hear from David S. Black, the Under Secretary of the Interior, to testify on S. 3050.

STATEMENT OF DAVID S. BLACK, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; ACCOMPANIED BY FRANK HARRISON, ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR (LEGISLATION), NATIONAL PARK SERVICE; AND FRED LEE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mr. BLACK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to have Mr. Frank Harrison, Assistant to the Director, accompany me.

Senator Moss. We are always glad to have Mr. Harrison here.

Mr. BLACK. I would also like to express, on behalf of Secretary Udall, his profound regrets that he could not be present to testify personally for this bill. This is a piece of legislation that is very close to his heart. He was a close friend and acquaintance of Carl Sandburg for a number of years, and is personally very familiar with this property. I regret to say I am not. I have not visited it, but we have people in the hearing room from the Department who I am sure will be able to respond to any detailed questions.

I am pleased to support this legislation, Mr. Chairman, which would authorize the establishment of the Carl Sandburg home as a national historic site. It is located at Flat Rock, in the mountains of western North Carolina, and was, for the last 22 years of his life, the beloved "home place" of one of this country's best-known writers, Carl Sandburg.

The poet-writer-philosopher-farmer, Carl Sandburg, needs no introduction; he was as uniquely American as was Abraham Lincoln or Will Rogers or Walt Whitman. He was a biographer of the American scene whose roots never left the soil.

Though known best as a man of the Midwest, Sandburg and his wife began the search in the early 1940's for a farm home in the Appalachians. Circumstances led them to a 241-acre farm 20 miles from Asheville, N.C., where they settled and where he continued to write. "Connemara," his home, offered the opportunity for reflection and for walking, with the Blue Ridge clearly visible from his hilltops.

It is said that the land, the buildings and furnishings of "Connemara," embody the memory of Carl Sandburg more vividly than any other place with which he was associated.