

Mr. Chairman, we recommend the enactment of legislation which would authorize the preservation of the Sandburg home as a living farm best reflecting the life and the times of Carl Sandburg. The legislation you are considering today would authorize acquisition of the Sandburg farm, together with adjacent or related properties required for the administration of the site. At this point, Mr. Chairman, you will note that an inked change has been made in the text of my statement. This was done in error. It should not have been made. The area that is embodied in the bill is, in fact, 268 acres, not 247; but I will discuss in just a moment the smaller figure.

The report of the Department, dated July 2, 1968, proposed that in addition to the 241-acre farm, the historic site should also include approximately 38 acres of adjacent land, six acres of which lie south of the farm, and 32 acres of which are north of the farm, and include within the authorization, the 6-acre Flat Rock Playhouse property.

The acreage other than the playhouse property was proposed for acquisition so that access roads, parking areas, and service facilities could be provided in a location which would not encroach upon the farm. A sensitive treatment of the Sandburg story calls for careful preservation of the pastoral atmosphere.

The Department's report to your committee did not, however, reflect a restudy of the inclusion of the 32 acres, including the playhouse property, north of the farm, made by the National Park Service at the request of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The restudy was particularly directed to the feasibility of relocating some of the proposed developments to the principal property, thus eliminating 32 acres from the proposal. The restudy indicated that this could be accomplished without any adverse effects. The House committee was notified of this by letter dated July 2, 1968. We will submit a copy of that letter for the record.

(The letter referred to follows:)

JULY 2, 1968.

HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Following the June 18, 1968, hearings on H.R. 13099 by the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and in response to a request from the Committee which arose during those hearings, National Park Service resources planning team returned to the Carl Sandburg farm in North Carolina to conduct additional field studies. This was done to determine whether the visitor contact and orientation facilities, which had been proposed for development of a detached 32-acre parcel of private land, might be located within the Sandburg property.

A careful analysis, including landscape considerations, study of the relationship of one portion of the farm to another, and attention to the site characteristics of the land and to the space requirements of the proposed visitor facilities, has disclosed that these facilities can be installed within the northern portion of the Sandburg property.

Were this alternative approved, the land acquisition costs would be reduced by \$190,000 from the original estimate of \$415,000, thus leaving a total of \$225,000. Development costs would be decreased by \$67,000, from \$1,019,200 to \$952,200. Annual operating and maintenance costs would remain the same.

We are hopeful that this report will furnish the information which will be required in further consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE B. HARTZOG, Jr., *Director.*