

earth. It is a living laboratory and classroom for many thousands of people. You see in the Great Swamp the results of 185 million years of volcanic action, drainage, ice movement, and forestation. It is the first wilderness proposal in the Northeast to be submitted for congressional action.

In recognition of these remarkable attributes, the Nation's conservation leaders, and spokesmen for preservation of some vestiges of our natural heritage, have rallied in support of the Great Swamp legislation. Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, in a report on wilderness proposals, called the acreage "eminently qualified for designation as wilderness." When public hearings were held in February of 1967, some 6,212 messages from individuals were received—and of these, only two opposed the Great Swamp wilderness proposal. At these same hearings, 245 organizations expressed their support in written communications—and none opposed the wilderness proposal.

Now, this subcommittee has an opportunity to add its vote to those already cast in favor of preserving this island of natural tranquility. I certainly hope that the time is at hand when Congress will act on a proposal like this out of a belief in the future, rather than being forced to react to catastrophes of the past. If we don't set aside the Great Swamp as wilderness, but allow it to be swallowed up by the engines of the city, then we will see a day when we are made to chop up the concrete to build a "park" in the middle of traffic.

Brooks Atkinson, the distinguished New York Times writer, says quite accurately that the Great Swamp is "good for nothing except life, knowledge, peace, and hope."

I urge the subcommittee to act in favor of the bill, and to do it without delay. We will be acknowledging a debt to tomorrow. We will demonstrate our concern for the quality of human life.

Senator CHURCH. We thank you very much.

Senator Case?

STATEMENT OF HON. CLIFFORD P. CASE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Senator CASE. My interest is the same as all my colleagues with any interest in this matter at all.

This wilderness would be unique even if out in the great open spaces where there is still lots of space, but it is precious in New Jersey. It is so important for itself, its peculiar qualities and features, and it is most important, as far as I am concerned, as a little oasis of green producing some oxygen, which is so essential in this land as it fills up with people and industry and all kinds of economic development. It would be, I think, a tragedy if anything happened to it.

The purpose of the bill, of course, is to put 3,750 acres of the 6,000-acre swamp into the National Wilderness Preservation System. The sole reason for that, as far as I am concerned, is by that means to give the maximum amount of preservation under the wilderness system to this unique area.

We strongly urge passage of this bill. This is an area that, I guess you know from your general knowledge, has been much sought after as a jet airport. Those of us immediately concerned with it are violently opposed to this usage, and there is unanimous opposition as far as all