

area of some 7,000 acres which now does represent a vast site. The two county parks will form buffer areas for the wilderness site and serve to protect the features of the refuge. The heavier day-use facilities such as nature trails, nature education buildings, family picnic sites, and horseback riding trails, will be supplied by the county units and will not extend into or enter upon the wilderness lands.

Of vast importance, also, is the swamp's present and potential use as an educational tool to alert and indoctrinate millions of our young urban people to the importance and value of their country's resources. We, the Congress and concerned citizens, are the ones who must set the example for our young people to follow in resource preservation. Through multigovernmental cooperation of the Morris and Somerset County Park Commissions and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, programs have already been established which will carry out these objectives. Through this example of coordination, thousands of our urban youngsters will have the unique opportunity of experiencing natural swamp and wilderness exposure close to home.

One final point; New Jersey, as you know, recently experienced a severe flooding. The Passaic River, in particular, overflowed its banks and caused extensive downstream damage to private and governmental properties. Robert A. Roe, commissioner of the New Jersey State Department of Conservation and Economic Development, has stated that the flood control value of the headwaters of this river, formed in the Great Swamp, alone would be valid enough reason for preserving the area in its highest form. The entire swamp produces subsurface water supply for vast areas of New Jersey through recharge processes. Manmade alterations of these natural phenomena could cause serious future problems.

For these reasons the Somerset County Park Commission supports and urges passage of S. 3379.

Thank you.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Mr. Moody.

Accompanying you today is Russell Myers. Do you have a statement, Mr. Myers?

**STATEMENT OF RUSSELL W. MYERS, SECRETARY-DIRECTOR,
MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION**

Mr. MYERS. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have a statement.

I am Russell W. Myers, secretary-director of the Morris County Park Commission of Morris County, N.J. I wish to supplement Mr. Moody's statement with a few additional details regarding the activities of the Morris County Park Commission on the northeasterly and easterly perimeters of the proposed wilderness area. On the map it is indicated in yellow on the right-hand side of the map.

Since 1962, the Morris County Park Commission has been actively engaged in an effort to preserve the Great Swamp by developing complementary buffer areas and programs which will preserve the insiding in what will then be a very urban area.

Morris County is one of the most rapidly growing counties in the State of New Jersey with an estimated resident population of 375,000 people. It is anticipated that by 1980 some 600,000 people will be residing in what will be a very urban area.