

Those of us who are here today are a tiny microcosm of this vast number which included historical societies, local governing bodies, county officials, women's groups, schools and colleges, science groups and recreation associations as well as many conservation organizations from all over the Nation. The supporting documents submitted with this statement reflect the support of all town and county governmental agencies within whose jurisdiction Great Swamp falls. Also reflected is the deep involvement of the public and private schools and educators who are depending upon Great Swamp as an outdoor classroom and laboratory.

The Great Swamp is unique to this New York metropolitan area. The close proximity of wild lands to a teeming metropolis increasingly cut off from the resources of the land on which it depends enhances many times the value of this wilderness proposal. Accordingly, we urge prompt approval of your committee of S. 3379 to protect Great Swamp from the ever-present danger of exploitation.

I would like, if I may, to list the supporting statements which I would also like to place in the record.

Senator CHURCH. Very well. And the hearing index you refer to will be made a part of the record by reference.

Mr. STOWELL. Supporting statements, first, from the mayors of the municipalities involved. They are the townships of Harding, Passaic, Chatham, and Bernards; a similar statement from the Board of Freeholders, Morris County; a statement from Commissioner Robert A. Roe, Commissioner of the District of Conservation and Economic Development of the State of New Jersey; a statement from Dr. James B. Fisk, president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, which will convey some of the concern of industry in this part of the world for preservation of the swamp; a statement from the New Jersey Historical Society by president John T. Cunningham; and a statement from the New Jersey State Federation of Womens Clubs on behalf of its 45,000-odd members.

(The statements referred to follow:)

STATEMENT OF JAMES C. PITNEY, ACTING MAYOR OF HARDING TOWNSHIP

The Township Committee of the Township of Harding wishes to go on record wholeheartedly in support of the recommendation of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to make the 3750 acres of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This area in the heart of 'Megalopolis' is in our opinion markedly distinguished from surrounding lands by topographical and ecological features as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. We urge the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to act as quickly as possible in accelerating Wilderness Bill S-3379.

STATEMENT OF MAYOR ROBERT J. BEST OF PASSAIC TOWNSHIP

A portion of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge lies within our Township, as does a portion of the proposed wilderness area.

At a regular meeting of the Governing Body of Passaic Township on February 3, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved that the Township Committee of the Township of Passaic does wholeheartedly endorse the inclusion of the M. Hartley Dodge and Harding Wilderness Units of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge into the National Wilderness Preservation System, and recommends to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the North Jersey Conservation Foundation that additional areas, where possible, be designated."