

STATEMENT OF JAMES B. FISK, PRESIDENT, BELL TELEPHONE LABORATORIES

My name is James B. Fisk. I am President of Bell Telephone Laboratories with headquarters at Murray Hill, New Jersey.

I wish to urge passage of Wilderness Bill HR-16771 to designate a portion of the Great Swamp of Morris County as part of the Wilderness Preservation System.

As a resident and employer in the vicinity of the Great Swamp I have a dual interest in seeing that the future of the area is carefully planned for orderly growth and proper development. This is essential to keep the fast growing economy in this area viable.

The State of New Jersey has a real stake in planning the future of Great Swamp. The department charged with such planning is the Department of Conservation and Economic Development. The title of this department has not arrived at by mere chance, but has a remarkable precision of meaning—*Conservation and Economic Development*. These two functions are inseparable. It is literally impossible to successfully have one without the other. This is the essence of good planning.

The region surrounding the Great Swamp area will have substantial growth in the next decade or so. With this growth will come an expanded economy. Proper economic development cannot continue to prevail without the balancing provision of green areas and wildlife preserves to stimulate man's awareness of and dependence on nature. Great Swamp lies in the center of a region containing over 30 million people. This number is constantly increasing. Many of us here today have been properly grateful for the foresight of an earlier generation in setting aside parks such as the nearby 960 acre Morristown National Historical Park for our benefit and our pleasure. Can we do less for those who follow us, especially when we remember that a wilderness once destroyed is gone forever? The Great Swamp Wilderness area, however small in contrast to the great wildernesses of the West, will probably be the only opportunity for the establishment of a segment of the National Wilderness System in the New York Metropolitan region where the greatest concentration of people per square mile in the Nation exists.

I represent an organization of more than 14,000 persons. Approximately 11,000 of these people live in the State of New Jersey and represent a combined payroll of over 100 million dollars annually. Of these New Jersey residents, about one third the total, including nearly 40% of our scientists and engineers live within a five mile ring surrounding the Great Swamp. About half of all New Jersey employees live not more than ten miles away. It is quite apparent that the area surrounding Great Swamp is a most desirable residential location for our people.

When Bell Laboratories began relocating from New York City back in the early forties, we selected an area where we could attract the professional and semi-professional people that we need to carry on our communications research and development activities. What started as an experiment, has been eminently successful, and consequently we have expanded other New Jersey locations, particularly at Whippany in Hanover Township some five miles from the Great Swamp. Our company is only one of numerous research organizations which have found this to be true. Among the many large industries also located within this five mile circle are Ciba, Sandoz, Warner-Lambert and Chilcott, Allied Chemical, Mennen Corporation and others. Their combined payrolls amount to hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Today more than ever we are competing for professional people with other areas of the country, where major research and development activity is located. They also have strong attractions for these people—Southern California; the Peninsula area around San Francisco; the Greater Boston area, and so forth. These people look very closely at the environment in which they will live before accepting a job. Certainly these people need not and would not remain in an area where the quality of their environment had deteriorated.

They are not only interested in good home locations but they look for proximity to recreational and cultural activities for themselves and for their children. Once they have located here many of them take an active part in the planning and administration of their home communities. In the surrounding area approximately 40 Bell Laboratories employees serve as members of governing bodies and other municipal boards. Of this group two are Mayors and two are Presidents of School Boards.