

The island, until now a national wildlife refuge, is entirely federally owned to mean low tide, with the exception of a 4-acre inholding which has been used for summer camps and as a research headquarters of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will eventually acquire this privately held property and the entire island will become a wilderness area. I have been assured by the Massachusetts Audubon Society that they are in wholehearted support of the proposed wilderness area and will continue to coordinate the program with the Bureau.

Sportsmen, too, will benefit from the proposal. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has assured me that hunting and fishing will be permitted. And so, Mr. Chairman, the wilderness designation of Monomoy will bring security to the environmental diversity of the region. It will provide a wealth of alternative opportunities to the vacationist, the naturalist, the sportsman, and the artist.

In 1961 we authorized the Cape Cod National Seashore, established to protect the natural values of the cape. Monomoy is geographically a partner of the cape; as wilderness, it will be a complementary reserve. Together with other State and local efforts, these Federal lands will constitute a variety of environments, of landscapes, and of opportunities for all of our people to enjoy outdoor recreation as well as natural beauty.

Those who seek it can find here the solitude of a true wilderness island, without roads or mechanized vehicles.

This proposal brings the national wilderness protection philosophy to Massachusetts, for the benefit not only of the citizens of our State, but of all the Nation. We are pleased to have this opportunity to provide this protection of the Wilderness Act of 1964 to the refuge.

The diversity of our wilderness inventory will be enhanced by adding the 2,600 acres of Monomoy to the system. To find a vest-pocket wilderness so close to the millions of people who make up the megalopolis of the eastern seaboard is a stroke of good luck. It will give balance to the beaches of our Nation's shoreline and will add greatly to the charm of Cape Cod.

Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure to be here today to support S. 3425, and to urge the necessary action to designate Monomoy as a wilderness area. The action implementing the Wilderness Act is moving ahead well now, and it is gratifying to have Monomoy as one of the first wildlife refuge areas to be considered. This designation will cost us nothing, yet it will preserve for all of us, and for future generations, the priceless heritage of wilderness and natural beauty.

At one phase it was the intent of the Park Service to include Monomoy in the national seashore and the House concurred in not having Monomoy in the national seashore, because we didn't want to get it overused. I am glad that the Department of the Interior now sees that its most appropriate use is in a wilderness. It is much more in keeping with the intent of Congress, I believe, that it remain relatively remote and where people can go and see a little wilderness so close to the megalopolis that makes up the east coast. It is only 2,600 acres, but it provides the balance that we need to the hustle and bustle of our shoreline and I think it will serve a very wonderful purpose.

I would like, if I may, to pursue that thought. I see they have brought up a map showing the national shoreline and one thought