

You can have those vast extensive areas, but if we are going to have wilderness within 30 miles of downtown Manhattan, it is going to have to be small areas. And I think there in 1968 it is necessary that we have these two primitive areas here and I plead with this committee to set them aside as wilderness and give them the added protection. They have been classified and set aside as national wildlife refuges. The area has been defined and part of that area can be managed as a refuge. These other areas I would like to see set aside permanently for these millions of people in the neighborhoods in that area.

Mr. Gottschalk talked about development of the area. I don't want to get into that or the matter of the road, but I would like to make abundantly clear to you people this is a dirt road. We put a little oil on it maybe once a year, but it made available a crosscut for a few local people.

Some people live on the fringes of the area, but there has been no real development, just a few homes. Those on the property that we acquired and gave to the Government, I guess have all been removed.

Mr. GOTTSCHALK. There are still a couple of holdings with residences.

Mr. GUTERMUTH. If there is any argument on the part of Congress, then let's close the road if that is what it takes. I personally see nothing wrong with leaving that road in there. Maybe it would make the area a little easier for people to get back into a truly primitive area. If we talk of any kind of development, I hope we adhere to the appropriate sections in the Wilderness Act.

There has been discussion of primitive facilities for people to use in this small area. My answer to that is, let them go on the outside, provide facilities there first. If they want to put some development, let's provide it on the outside of these areas where it will be convenient for these people and let's keep this wilderness in a primitive area.

I will close by saying I hope this committee will report this bill out favorably. I feel the same about Monomoy and Pelican Islands. These are covered in S. 3502. With that I will close.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much, Mr. Gutermuth.

Senator Allott?

Senator ALLOTT. You have raised, whether you intended to or not, the same question I had before and we all have great respect for your sincerity and knowledge in this area. Frankly, as far as I am concerned, I am fully aware you are not going to get the vast areas we have for wilderness in the West here in the East.

This is axiomatic. Personally the road would not make a great deal of difference to me, because I have always had a feeling that one of the weaknesses of our wilderness system is that we do lock it up from people who, because of infirmities or age, cannot undergo the physical endurance that it takes to really have benefit of the wilderness areas. I have felt for a long time that this is one of the weaknesses.

By the same token, if the committee follows your suggestion, you say if it is a vital question, close it up if that is the only answer—I don't know that it would be. But, by the same token, if you keep the road open and permit motor vehicles to go across there, you do dilute the standards we set up, part of which was read here a while ago and part of which Senator Hansen read. Are you concerned with this at all?