

areas not set aside and designated as wilderness. My concept is, let us preserve and maintain these wildernesses in the true primitive status that was intended in the original act.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator METCALF. Thank you for your useful testimony.

The next witness is Mr. Gary Soucie, assistant to the director of the Sierra Club.

**STATEMENT OF GARY A. SOUCIE, ATLANTIC REPRESENTATIVE,
SIERRA CLUB**

Mr. SOUCIE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to read an abbreviated version of my statement in the interest of time if I might.

Senator METCALF. You may proceed in any way you like.

Mr. SOUCIE. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Gary A. Soucie, Atlantic representative of the Sierra Club, a national, nonprofit conservation organization dedicated, since its founding by John Muir in 1892, to the preservation of our Nation's wilderness and wildlands. The club's headquarters are at 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, Calif., and my offices are at 15 East 53d Street, New York, N.Y. I am here today to speak in support of wilderness proposals for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, N.J.; Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, Mass.; and Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Maine. The proposed wilderness areas lie wholly within the territory of the club's Atlantic chapter, which has endorsed the inclusion of these areas in the national wilderness preservation system.

Our modern ideas about wilderness were nurtured, if not created, in the great expanses of forest and mountains, and sometimes the desert, of the American West. But the Wilderness Act has given us the opportunity and the challenge to apply our wilderness concepts to other kinds of wildlands—swamps and savannas, rocky and sandy coasts, barrier beaches and islands, caves, and canyons. And it has given us the opportunity to survey the land and water resources of the national wildlife refuges, and to see them as something more than game farms.

In the response of the public to the field hearings for these eastern wilderness proposals we see a dramatic demonstration of the increasing, intense interest of our urban and suburban population in what, just a few short years ago, was regarded as an essentially rural matter: Wilderness preservation. The citizens who live in and around our eastern megalopolis are among the most concerned for the future of our American environment, for in their daily lives they are having to cope with the melancholy, if not disastrous, legacy of the reckless, preconservation era of our Nation's development. As John B. Oakes, editorial page editor of the New York Times, has put it, we don't have much wilderness left in the East, but we have an awful lot of jungle.

Wilderness, then, may mean one thing to a person who lives in a State like New Jersey, with a population density greater than that of Japan or India, and quite another thing to a person from a sparsely populated State like Alaska or Nevada.