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HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE
EIGHTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 3067

A BILL TO EXTEND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE KANIKSU
NATIONAL FOREST IN THE STATE OF IDAHO, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

OCTOBER 8, 1964
PRIEST LAKE, IDAHO

Printed for the use of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs



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UPPER PRIEST LAKE, IDAHO

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1964

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Priest Lake, Idaho.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., at Hill's Resort, Priest Lake, Idaho, Senator Bible presiding.

Present: Senator Alan Bible, Senator Frank Church, Senator Len Jordan, and Congressman Compton White.

Also present: Jerry Verkler, staff director, and Roy Whitacre, professional staff member.

Senator BIBLE. The subcommittee will come to order.

I wish to say at this time that I am happy to be here in Idaho. I am Alan Bible, senior Senator from the State of Nevada, and chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee. This is a subcommittee of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the U.S. Senate. This is the committee charged with the responsibility of hearing proposals concerning the creation of national parks, lakeshores, and seashores, hearing proposals for the conservation and preservation of certain areas. I am accompanied by three men who need no introduction to an Idaho audience. First, Senator Frank Church, of Idaho, your senior U.S. Senator; Senator Len Jordan, of Idaho, your junior U.S. Senator, and former Governor of this State; and your Congressman from this district, Congressman Compton White, of the House of Representatives.

As you people well know, both Senator Church and Senator Jordan are fellow members of the Interior Committee of the U.S. Senate. I have been privileged over the period of the last 5 or 6 years to hear many proposals for national parks and seashores and river systems and various other areas. We have adopted a policy in this Senate committee of going out and visiting with the people in the area, seeing the area, and getting the feel of the area, because I recognize there are problems in the acquisition of many of these great scenic wonders we have in this country. As a fellow westerner and a neighbor of yours from Nevada, I am convinced there is nothing that compares with this great western area of ours. I think we do have an obligation, not only to our generation, but to the generations to follow us, to attempt to preserve much of the area that is slipping away from us. We are here today to hear your testimony, to have you tell us about this area and your views, whether you are for the proposal or against it.

I would first like to make a part of the record, Mr. Reporter, a bill introduced by Senator Church, S. 3067, to extend the boundaries of the Kaniksu National Forest in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

I am not going to read it into the record. It is to enable the Congress to be able to acquire certain private lands along Upper Priest Lake, should the Congress elect to proceed in that manner.

I would likewise make a part of the record at this point an official report of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Freeman, bearing date of August 19, 1964. I think it might be well if I read that in full into the record, because one thing we find in these hearings that we have in the length and breadth of the United States, north and south and east and west, is that sometimes we don't have a clear concept of what it is we are attempting to do.

Of course I am going to call on Senator Church and Senator Jordan and Congressman White for such observations as they have.

I think it might be helpful if I would indicate to you what the official position is of the Department of Agriculture. The letter is directed to the chairman of the full committee, Chairman "Scoop" Jackson of the State of Washington. He is chairman of the full committee. This recommends the creation, or the extension of these boundaries, and it says this:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., August 19, 1964.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to the request for a report on S. 3067, a bill to extend the boundaries of the Kaniksu National Forest in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

We recommend that S. 3067 be enacted.

This bill would include within the Kaniksu National Forest certain described lands to the extent that these are not now within the national forest boundaries. It would also authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire the described lands at fair market value.

The particular tracts set out in S. 3067 comprise three separate parcels with a combined area of approximately 417 acres. All of these parcels are located on the shorelines of Upper Priest Lake, a natural body of water in Bonner County, Idaho. One parcel of about 84 acres is within the national forest; the other two parcels are outside of, but adjoin, the national forest boundary.

Upper Priest Lake is a beautiful mountain lake approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and a mile wide. At present it is undeveloped by roads or dwellings. The lake and adjoining shorelands therefore offer a nearly natural environment. Upper Priest Lake lies some 3 miles northwesterly of Lower Priest Lake and is connected to it by the Thorofare River which is traversable by small pleasure boats. Hence Upper Priest Lake is accessible by small boats from the developed and road-accessible Lower Priest Lake. While all of Upper Priest Lake is within the national forest, lands adjoining the east side beyond the lake itself are owned by the State of Idaho and four private owners who possess the two parcels above noted. The west side of the lake is national forest land except for the third parcel of private lands discussed above. Lands adjacent to the lake thus are publicly controlled except for the three parcels described in S. 3067.

We believe it is highly desirable that Upper Priest Lake and its immediate environs be kept free of habitations and commercial developments. This lake has very substantial public recreation values of the kind that can be best realized and enjoyed in the undeveloped setting which it now offers. The owner of one of the privately owned tracts on the east side of the lake, just outside the national forest, has made tentative preparations to subdivide his property into lake front lots and sell these for private recreation homesites. The probabilities are that if this is done the remaining private lands will also be so utilized and that roads into the area would be encouraged.

The described lands are forest lands characteristic of the Kaniksu National Forest and have material potentialities for multiple-use management. As part of the national forest they would be managed in conjunction with the adjacent

lands in the area with recreational use oriented to boating, fishing, camping, and hunting in a near-natural environment.

In the present circumstances, acquisition of the three parcels for national forest purposes therefore would be desirable as a conservation measure and practical from the standpoint of future management in correlation with nearby national forest properties on the same lake.

In view of the request for an immediate report we have not obtained the advice of the Bureau of the Budget as to the relationship of this legislation to the administration's program.

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN, *Secretary.*

Senator BIBLE. I read that, it isn't too long, simply to indicate to you the administration's feeling on this proposal, which is in your own backyard, in the setting here at Priest Lake.

(The bill referred to follows:)

[S. 3067, 88th Cong., 2d sess.]

A BILL To extend the boundaries of the Kaniksu National Forest in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, to promote protection and conservation of the outstanding scenic values and natural environment of Upper Priest Lake in Idaho and lands adjacent thereto for public use and enjoyment, the boundaries of the Kaniksu National Forest are hereby extended to include those of the lands hereinafter described which are not now within such boundaries. In order that they may be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized to acquire the following lands at their fair market value:

Township 63 north, range 4 west, Boise meridian:

section 18, southeast quarter southeast quarter;

section 19, northeast quarter northeast quarter, lot 3 (southeast quarter northeast quarter);

section 20, southwest quarter northwest quarter;

section 33, lot 1 (northeast quarter northwest quarter), lot 2 (southeast quarter northwest quarter), lot 3 (northeast quarter southeast quarter), lot 6 (southeast quarter southwest quarter), west half southwest quarter northeast quarter, west half northwest quarter southeast quarter, southwest quarter southeast quarter.

Township 63 north, range 5 west, Boise meridian:

section 24, northeast quarter northeast quarter, east half northwest quarter, northeast quarter northeast quarter southwest quarter northeast quarter, northwest quarter southeast quarter northeast quarter, lot 2 (northeast quarter southeast quarter northeast quarter), lot 3 (northeast quarter southeast quarter southeast quarter northeast quarter).

SEC. 2 There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such funds as are needed to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Senator BIBLE. As questions arise, we want to attempt to clear up any misunderstandings. We will be asked what happens after this, and I would answer that now. I want to make it clear in the record that this is a hearing, and is for the purpose of listening to the pros and cons, those who are for it and those who are against it, the good points and the bad points, and the suggestions as to improving the bill.

It is obvious that we won't complete our action on this legislation at this rather elongated session of the Congress. We have been in session for almost 2 years. I think everybody can read the sense of relief when we adjourned last Saturday. I know those at the head table feel that way about it.

Actually, this is a preliminary hearing, coming out into the area to get your sentiments and viewpoints to see what you think about this suggested proposal. Then action can follow in whatever course is indicated when we return to the Congress next January 1965.

That, I think, is the statement that somewhat outlines my general thinking, how this proceeds. I want you to know we have our two staff people with us, the experts in this field, Jerry Verkler, the staff director of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of the Senate. The man specifically attached to the subcommittee who handles many details in these public parks and lakes and properties is Roy Whitacre, the staff man. These gentlemen are the staff men we brought with us from Washington. We are all kinsfolk and all enjoy coming into Idaho.

At this time I recognize, for whatever statement he cares to make, the senior Senator from Idaho, Frank Church.

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK CHURCH, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IDAHO

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, we are very grateful to you as the chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee, for coming here and holding the meeting right on the shores of Priest Lake. I think no one knows more about recreational matters or has rendered more effective service to promote wise conservation in the Senate, than the Senator who chairs the hearing today, Senator Alan Bible. We are not only anxious to welcome him to Idaho but we want him to know how grateful we are for coming at this time. I am sorry you can't see the lake, Senator. The purpose of holding the meeting here was so that you would have a good look at things, but the weather is conspiring against us today. We may have to change our plans, but perhaps the sun will come out before the hearing is over.

I want to thank some people who have been very instrumental in calling my attention to the importance of saving Upper Priest Lake while there is still time, for the use and enjoyment of all of the public. Art Manley was one of those who first called this to my attention. Vern Kidd has been very much interested and has been in constant correspondence with me. Frank Cullen is another. Frank would be here today but a higher calling has kept him away. He is elk hunting.

There are a great many others I would like to mention but time won't permit that. I would ask permission, Mr. Chairman, to include in the record of the hearings at this point the statement I made at the time I introduced the bill. Included in it are portions of letters I received from many people around the State in support of the objective of preserving Upper Priest Lake. That includes statements from D. R. Theophilus; the Honorable Don Maynard, of Bonner County; Judge Francis Sleep of Sandpoint, and many others who have uttered their approval of this legislation.

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, the statement will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

LAST CHANCE TO SAVE UPPER PRIEST LAKE

Mr. CHURCH. Mr. President, recently, an American wrote me from the Punjab Club, Lahore, Pakistan, to enter into a contest of words: Is Upper Priest Lake one of the most beautiful places "in Idaho," "in the country," or "in the world"? The writer, Mrs. E. J. Peterson, declared it to be "one of the most beautiful places left in the world," and I am prepared to agree with her.

But before long it may not be, and that is why Mrs. Peterson wrote as she did.

I hope—

She said—

“that this land will be * * * kept like it is * * *. It would be a shame not to keep it wild.”

Nearly everyone in northern Idaho and eastern Washington would agree, and millions more would also if they knew why Upper Priest Lake is endangered.

Mr. President, I should like to tell that story to the Senate at this time.

Upper Priest is a small lake, less than 4 miles long and three-fourths of a mile wide, located near the Washington State border and within walking distance of Canada, in the panhandle of northern Idaho. The panhandle is dotted by lakes, but Upper Priest is the only left which has not felt the permanent imprint of man. It is without commercial development of any sort; it is as wild and natural as God made it.

VISITING UPPER PRIEST

The lake is surrounded on three sides by rising mountains, but the unusual thing about Upper Priest is that, unlike so many similar lakes, one need not cross the mountains to get there. Thousands come there easily each year over a gentle water route.

We can understand something about the special attraction of this route from the description given it by Art Manley, vice president of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, a man who has worked tirelessly to save the lake:

“There is neither road nor trail to the little lake but the approach is easy and scenic, via the Thoroughfare, a lazily meandering stream just deep enough for most outboard motorboats and wide enough to permit one boat to pass another. The Thoroughfare provides a study in nature itself. It is protected by tall, stately white pines, alpine fir, spruce, western redcedar, the light green larch, cottonwoods, and many, many other trees, bushes, and flowering vines, the trees often casting their shadows across the entire width of the clear, blue water of the Thoroughfare.”

Once inside the lake, the reason for preserving it becomes even more apparent. The air is unusually tranquil, and the lake surface, protected by the mountains, is smooth enough to see the cutthroat trout jumping at great distances. The shore is lined by plants and intermitent sandy beaches which serve as the threshold to an unbroken forest, luxuriant with such a diverse combination of evergreen and deciduous trees as to make a necklace for the lake in autumn of brilliant, splashing color.

In the Selkirk Mountains, above the lake, roam a herd of rare mountain caribou, thought by many to be the last surviving band south of Canada. Mountain goat also inhabit the high country and deer, bear, and moose can be seen occasionally at the water's edge. The giant Mackinaw trout, the land-locked Kokanee salmon, and the rainbow trout inhabit the lake's clear waters.

Two well-concealed campgrounds and an emergency fireguard station are the only permanent evidence of man's intrusion on this scene—at least as of today.

THREAT TO UPPER PRIEST

The west side of the lake is part of the Kaniksu National Forest; the east side is owned by the State of Idaho, with the exception of three separate privately owned parcels. From at least one of these parcels, the sound of bulldozers and hammers may soon disturb the calm, and the day may not be far off when the shoreline will be studded with private boat docks. For the owners of this 140-acre parcel have announced their intention to subdivide their land for cabin sites. For nearly 4 years, the Idaho Wildlife Federation has sought to avoid this kind of commercial development. Earlier this year, when it looked as if all was lost, a national semiscientific organization, Nature Conservancy, came to the rescue, just as it has done at dozens of other beauty spots throughout the United States. The organization extended a loan to the owners, without interest, in order to buy an extra 10 months' time to save the lake. After that, the land will go up for sale.

As Art Manley has written for the Idaho Wildlife Federation:

“In spite of our very best efforts, we have failed * * * to solve the problem on a local or State level. The owners cannot give us another 4 years. We believe there is no further hope except through Federal help. And so, we are asking today—urgently for that help.”

SAVING THE LAKE

It is for this reason, Mr. President, that I am today introducing a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire these private inholdings at their fair market value. They can then be incorporated into the Kaniksu National Forest and managed so as to protect and conserve the scenic values of Upper Priest Lake for the use of all the public.

I use the phrase "all the public" advisedly, since such a description is appropriate for this jewel of a lake.

Upper Priest is less than 2 hours' driving time from Spokane, the largest city between the Pacific coast and the Midwest. It is estimated that nearly a million tourists traverse the general area each year. Probably no wilderness proves more easily or enjoyably accessible than for those who come to Lower Priest Lake to take a pleasant boat ride through the Thoroughfare, to Upper Priest.

This fact is not lost to those who, like myself, are also concerned with stagnant economic conditions in northern Idaho. Paradoxically, excepting Upper Priest Lake from commercial development has distinct economic value.

In a report made at my request, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation concluded that preserving Upper Priest in its natural state was important for increasing tourism.

"Scenic Upper Priest Lake appears ideal as a natural wilderness-type recreation area * * *."

The report states, and keeping it that way is necessary for "continued expansion of tourism creation. So preserved, Upper Priest Lake could be one of the feature attractions of the Panhandle area."

This is but another reason that the threat to Upper Priest has attracted so many to its cause. But the primary reason is that the lake means so much to the people who have been there. They have found it a place to escape from the punishing pace of daily life, free from the encroachment of cabins, docks, or automobiles. In an area where the great outdoors is everywhere, Upper Priest still is unique, an accessible touchstone with a peace no longer found in larger, commercial recreation areas.

The president of the University of Idaho, D. R. Theophilus, writes:

"This is a wonderful lake, and I hope that my grandchildren can see it as I have seen it."

The Honorable Don Maynard, representative from Bonner County, says in the same spirit:

"It would be wonderful if we could keep this property just as the good Lord made it."

Judge Frances Sleep, of Sandpoint, tells what Upper Priest symbolizes for her in a manner which speaks for a great many people. She writes:

"I have lived my life in Bonner County. I have seen many changes take place in our area. As a child it was fun to walk a couple of blocks from home in Sandpoint across a meadow to a free and uncluttered lake shore to picnic or swim. But no more. There is very little public access to our big Pend Oreille nowadays. This is the price we pay for progress. I am not objecting to the price, you understand, but I do feel we should budget some of our natural resources so they will be preserved wisely to the best advantage for the greatest number."

In 1911, the Congress passed the Weeks Act which was intended to allow for just such budgeting as Judge Sleep referred to. But for too long we have failed adequately to fund it, while the national treasury of scenery which we possess in such abundance is being surrendered to unbridled commercial development. In fiscal 1965, the Federal Government intends to spend only \$500,000 in the entire United States for purchases under the Weeks Act. Thus the need for this special legislation.

The Pacific Northwest Conservation Council, which represents those interested in conservation in the Northwest, put the case well when it said:

"Small areas like [Upper Priest Lake] are often so important to the overall welfare of our resources and they are so often neglected until too late."

Mr. President, the time is short but not yet too late. The bill which I introduce on behalf of myself and the Senator from Oregon (Mrs. Neuberger), will allow for the preservation of Upper Priest Lake, and stand as an example, from which the entire country may profit, of the timely application of wise conservation principles.

I ask that the bill be received, and referred to the appropriate committee.

Senator CHURCH. One final word, the particular bill on which this hearing is being held would authorize the purchase of these private holdings at fair market value, in order to avoid the subdivision and commercial development of Upper Priest Lake. These holdings, once purchased, would then be combined with the Kaniksu National Forest. As many of you know, it usually takes two steps to accomplish anything of this kind, an authorization bill followed by an appropriation of the necessary money.

In this case, however, we have already passed in this session of the Congress a landmark piece of legislation for promoting outdoor recreation. It is known as the Land and Water Conservation Fund bill, and when the bill was passed in its original form, it was drawn in such a way as to be restricted to holdings within the existing boundaries of national forests, but in the reconciling of the differences between the Senate and the House version of this bill, with Senator Bible's help, and with Senator Jordan's help, and Senator Jackson's help, we were able to amend the bill in such a way as to permit this fund to be used for the purpose of acquiring these particular private holdings, in the event this authorizing legislation is passed. So, this bill, if it is passed, is all that would be required, inasmuch as the funding would already be provided in the land and water conservation fund bill.

I call that to your attention because some confusion has arisen over the need for this legislation. The legislation is needed because the present law requires an act of Congress before the boundaries of any national forest in this State may be extended. If we get this authorized, the funding can be furnished through the Land and Water Conservation Fund bill.

Mr. Chairman, that is all I have to say because we are here to hear from the people and not to hear ourselves, except to reiterate my appreciation for your coming and the importance I attach to this legislation. I hope that this is the beginning of an effort that will ultimately preserve Upper Priest Lake for the benefit and enjoyment of all the people.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Senator Church.

I am happy now to call on his colleague and mine, Senator Jordan.

STATEMENT OF HON. LEN B. JORDAN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IDAHO

Senator JORDAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to join with Senator Church in welcoming you to this beautiful part of Idaho's lake section. I want to say, too, that we do appreciate your taking time out of your busy schedule to make this trip at this time. It is very important to us.

I am pleased that so many people are out here. I want to say, further, that your committee, Mr. Chairman, is one of the finest I am privileged to serve on in the Senate of the United States. I followed you to Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, to the Oregon Dunes, to Fire Island in New York, to the Prairie National Park in Kansas, and put in a good many miles and hours with you, and I appreciate your interest in sound conservation.

It is not my first trip to this part of Idaho. When I was Governor, I was privileged, along with a number of you fine people here today, to take a "show-me" trip. We took a pack string and saddle horses and, after we had done the lakes, we went clear to the Canadian line. It was one of the finest trips I ever had. I was impressed with the wild beauty of Upper Priest Lake, and the freshness of that lovely body of water there, without any sign of human habitation. I shall never forget it. It is one of the finest trips I have made and I see many of the men here today who were on that trip with me. I think it might be well, Senator Church, to mention the bill we are holding hearings on today is the authorization bill that would authorize, if it considered to be desirable, this acquisition. The implementation is made possible, as he suggested, by Public Law 88-578, of the 88th Congress, which was H.R. 3846. I think we should include this act in the record by reference, and file that section specifically which applies to the allocation of money for Federal purposes, and we will give it to the secretary. I shan't read it here. Just include the implementation section in the hearing record.

Senator BIBLE. I think that is a fine suggestion. Without objection, the section referred to will be made a part of the record.

(The section referred to follows:)

ALLOCATION OF MONEYS FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES

SEC. 6. (a) Moneys appropriated from the fund for Federal purposes shall, unless otherwise allotted in the appropriation Act making them available, be allotted by the President to the following purposes and subpurposes in substantially the same proportion as the number of visitor-days in areas and projects hereinafter described for which admission fees are charged under section 2 of this Act:

(1) For the acquisition of land, waters, or interests in land or waters as follows:

* * * * *

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—Inholdings within (a) wilderness areas of the National Forest System, and (b) other areas of national forests as the boundaries of those forests exist on the effective date of this Act which other areas are primarily of value for outdoor recreation purposes: *Provided*, That lands outside of but adjacent to an existing national forest boundary, not to exceed five hundred acres in the case of any one forest, which would comprise an integral part of a forest recreational management area may also be acquired with moneys appropriated from this fund: *Provided further*, That not more than 15 per centum of the acreage added to the National Forest System pursuant to this section shall be west of the 100th meridian.

* * * * *

Senator JORDAN. I came here, Mr. Chairman, to hear the people express themselves on the project, which I feel is of real merit. I will reserve any comments I have to a later time.

Thank you very much.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Senator Jordan.

I want to call on the Congressman representing this district, Compton White. Congressman White.

STATEMENT OF HON. COMPTON I. WHITE, JR., A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF IDAHO

Congressman WHITE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Senator Bible. I particularly would like to welcome you, not only to my home State, but to my home county, where I was raised since I was

10 years old. I have to admit I wasn't born in the county, but I have spent the rest of my life in this county and have had the opportunity to be in almost every part of this county. I, too, am more interested in hearing what the people of this area and those in attendance from other areas feel, particularly about the further extension of the national forest so that the included inholdings can be acquired at a fair market value. I think it would be only fair that I should say at this time that purchase at fair market value means condemnation in the exercise of eminent domain. It also means we are extending the national forest, so this particular feature of our legal process may be outlined at this time. I, myself, admit also I have some misgivings in this area. I certainly want to state, at this time, I have every desire to keep Upper Priest Lake in its natural state. I am sorry that entries have been made in the past that make this particular hearing necessary. It is too bad we do not have it all within public ownership at the present time so it could be included easily into the recreational potential that we have here.

I try, in the Congress of the United States, not to look at the immediate problem in each instance but I try to look at the broad effect. I think these things should be pointed out: I certainly feel that the will of the people is one that should be followed but, at the same time, I am still interested in protecting the rights of the individual, and with that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to again thank you for coming here. I am hoping these hearings will be very beneficial and the people who will make presentations will add greatly to our fund of knowledge, so when the bill comes before a House hearing—and we also hold hearings to attempt to properly represent the people of this area, and the entire United States—we will have a fund of knowledge for all Members that will make possible correct deliberation and correct enactment of this legislation into law.

If I am elected again, I shall serve on that committee and be a part of that committee when this particular legislation is considered on the House side.

Thank you very much for allowing me to make these remarks.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Congressman White.

I am going to take a station break while we rearrange the table for the speakers.

(A short recess was had.)

Senator BIBLE. Now, I have been given a list of witnesses. Can I be heard without the mike?

VOICES. Yes.

Senator BIBLE. That is fine. I hope I am not doing too much of the talking. We are here to hear you. I have been furnished with a list of witnesses. If there are others who desire to be heard, would you so indicate to Mr. Whitacre or Mr. Verkler, one or the other. I have a list of 12 witnesses and there may be others. If so, you may let either one of these two gentlemen I introduced know about it.

The first witness I have on my list is Art Manley of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, whose organization is the Idaho Wildlife Federation. I will be very pleased to call on him at this time as the first witness.

Mr. Manley, we are very happy to have you with us.

STATEMENT OF ART MANLEY, VICE PRESIDENT, IDAHO WILDLIFE
FEDERATION

Mr. MANLEY. Thank you very much, Senator, and members of the subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, Congressman White, and friends of Upper Priest Lake, I am Art Manley, vice president of the Idaho Wildlife Federation. I live at 1109 11th Street in Coeur d'Alene. I am here to testify on behalf of the Idaho Wildlife Federation and myself, and as chairman of a committee appointed by the federation nearly 2 years ago to work on this project.

First of all, I would like to submit two letters for inclusion in the record from people who are not able to be here today. One, from Gerald Dickinson, of Coeur d'Alene, and another from Bill Duff, the president of the Pacific Northwest Conservation Council.

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, they will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The letters referred to follow:)

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO, October 7, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands.

DEAR SIR: I am writing in support of Senate bill S. 3067, introduced by Senators Church and Neuberger, to permit addition of private lands on upper Priest Lake to the Kaniksu Forest.

If this bill is enacted, it will enable my family as well as future generations to see and enjoy this easily accessible lake without the annoying "keep out" signs and docks that now adorn nearly all our lakes.

Sincerely yours,

GERALD E. DICKINSON,
Creamery Worker.

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO.

My name is Bill Duff. I reside at 1137 North 14th Street, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and I am president of the Pacific Northwest Conservation Council, an organization of dedicated conservationists from the States of Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

The Pacific Northwest Conservation Council is opposed to commercial development of Upper Priest Lake. We are in favor of retaining the lake in its natural setting for all to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of October 1964.

BILL DUFF,
President, Pacific Northwest Conservation Council.

Mr. MANLEY. My own testimony is rather lengthy. Since I know there are many people here who wish to testify, and also inasmuch as the basic statement was covered very well, much better than I could, by the statement of the Forest Service, I think I will pass that and ask that the entire statement be included in the record, but that I read only the summary portion.

Senator BIBLE. That will be the order. The entire statement will be incorporated in full in the record, and you may highlight it in your own manner.

(The complete statement follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ART MANLEY, VICE PRESIDENT, IDAHO WILDLIFE
FEDERATION

Nearly 2 years ago, in January of 1963, I believe, at a district meeting of our group (representing the five northern counties of Idaho) this matter of Upper Priest Lake first came before us. We discovered then that although others had already been working on the problem for several years it was rapidly

approaching a critical stage, with the outlook very gloomy. We went on record then and there, unanimously, in favor of whatever needed to be done to prevent commercialization of this lake.

A committee was immediately appointed consisting of Vern Kidd, of Priest Lake; A. L. Stevens, of Sandpoint; and myself as chairman, to seek ways and means of keeping this little lake in its natural, unspoiled, primitive condition. I believe this hearing today is a direct result of this committee's efforts.

But to back up a bit, what is this all about? Briefly, Upper Priest Lake is unique in many ways—in its location, its accessibility and its unspoiled, undeveloped character. It lies in a protected valley in almost the very northern tip of Idaho's panhandle with the rugged Selkirk Mountains standing guard on three sides—east, north, and west. It is only a short walk to the State of Washington on the west, and the high mountains on the Canadian border are clearly visible in the near distance.

The only good access to the "little lake" is by boat via "the Thoroughfare," a lazily meandering, gently moving, shallow stream that flows along a winding, 2-mile course to Priest Lake to the south. In all but the very lowest water seasons this water highway easily accommodates even the larger boats in use on big Priest Lake, and traffic is often heavy both ways in the busy summer months.

From this hearing room window on Luby Bay you are looking directly up the big Priest Lake, some 20 miles long, and I am sure you can readily see why it is recognized as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world.

Upper Priest Lake is a small edition of the larger lake—less than 4 miles long, about three-fourths of a mile wide—except for development. The "big" lake has private homes, resorts, campgrounds—just about any facility and comfort you could want. Some homesites are leased from State or Federal Government, others are owned outright.

Upper Priest is an ideal family lake. It is large enough for all types of water activity—fishing, swimming, camping, water skiing, hiking, nature study, photography—yet small enough and sheltered so that it does not have dangerous storms. It has many fine sandy beaches. It is fed by clear, cold mountain streams and springs with its main source Upper Priest River, flowing down from the mountains along the Canadian border.

Because of the wild nature of the area it is one of Idaho's finest lakes for the rapidly vanishing native cutthroat trout. Deer and bear are common along the shores of the lake, and mountain goats make their homes in the high, rocky mountains overlooking Upper Priest Lake. Here, too, is found perhaps the last remaining herd of mountain caribou in the continental United States. Predators—cougar, bobcats, coyotes and others—are often found here, too.

And the vegetation, particularly along "the Thoroughfare" is lush and green, as varied as any in the entire region. Stately alpine fir, spruce, cedar, white pine, western larch and many other species line both sides of the channel, often casting their shadows across the full width of "the Thoroughfare" in the clear, clean water.

The upper lake has virtually no development. At one time in the early part of this century there was considerable activity there. A number of mining claims were opened along the shores, a homesteader operated a fur farm on the lower end of the lake, and a cabin on the northern end of the lake was occupied. But all this has long since changed. The homesteader left, the property was sold for taxes. All of the other residents have been gone for many years. The mining claims lie abandoned, almost unnoticeable now; the old cabins are falling in ruins. The only livable habitation on the lake now is a small emergency guard station on the west side of the lake occasionally used by the U.S. Forest Service.

The only actual "development" today is two small, carefully concealed campgrounds, established by the U.S. Forest Service in recent years.

But while there has been no development, there are ownership problems and threats of development. As shown on the attached sketch, all of the west side of the lake is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Most of the east side is owned by the State of Idaho. But intermingled among the State's holdings are several parcels of privately owned property.

Because of the unusual situation and environment of the "little lake," the Forest Service has maintained a policy designed to preserve the primitive, unspoiled character of the lake and surrounding area. Accordingly, its plans envision no roads, no homesites or buildings except for sanitation facilities. The Idaho Land Board and State forest service has pursued a similar policy on its side of the lake.

But should even one home be constructed on the shores of this lake, both agencies admit that this policy would have to be reviewed, almost certainly with the result that the entire area would be thrown open for development.

A few years ago the old homestead on the lower end of the lake was acquired by Spokane, Wash., people who made plans to subdivide the property into homesites. But after being approached by people interested in keeping this one lake undeveloped their plans were held in abeyance.

Efforts were made to obtain State funds for purchase, but without success. A land exchange was ruled out because Idaho's constitution prohibits exchange of lands between the State and private individuals. Legislation to amend and permit exchange was sought without success. The owners grew impatient. It was at this point that our committee came into the picture.

We arranged a meeting in Sandpoint to which we invited representatives of every Federal and State agency we could think of that might be interested—U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Fish and Game Department, Idaho Land Board, State forest service, Diamond National Corp., which has extensive holdings in the area, and the owners of the property involved. The Bureau of Land Management, at Senator Church's request, investigated and reported to him.

Other meetings with Government agencies and the owners of the old homestead followed. The question was discussed at many conservation meetings extending over much of Idaho and into Washington and Montana. Out of it all came a vast amount of good will and support and finally national recognition. Of thousands of people with whom we have discussed this problem only one person has voiced any opposition to our plans, to my knowledge.

But still we were as far as ever from a solution. We could not purchase with State funds because there are simply no funds available and no real possibility of getting any—our entire State park department, for example, subsists on about \$400,000 for 2 years and the asking price for only the one parcel of private property on the lake was \$400,000. Exchange, as mentioned above, was a practical impossibility.

We even discussed a possible three-way exchange involving Diamond National Corp. in the middle to hold the property until something could be worked out. But again practical considerations offered little hope of success in this direction. The time necessary for such negotiations, particularly, ruled against this approach. Governor Smylie and State Forester Roger Gurnsey both acknowledged that Federal help seemed to be the only solution.

Finally, the new owners of the old homestead set a deadline. If they still owned the property on the lake on May 15, 1964, they would have to begin selling lots in order to raise money for a payment due on their obligation in June. As this deadline neared in the late winter of 1964, the U.S. Forest Service people discovered that this property could be purchased under the Weeks law of 1911 if funds were appropriated specifically for that purpose. However, by this time the regular Agriculture Department appropriation bill for the 1965 fiscal year had already cleared the House, and was in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Nevertheless, Senator Church immediately moved to have \$400,000 added to this appropriation measure in Senate committee. This, of course, was not following the accustomed route and although it was a good try, it failed. Further action immediately was impossible because of the civil rights filibuster.

Another meeting was held on May 12, 1964, with these owners. Result was that the deadline was extended to June 1, 1964. If, by that time, we could raise \$30,000 as a loan to them for a year, they would be able to meet their most pressing indebtedness, pay off the mortgage on the property, and would then give us another year in which to obtain funds for purchase or find some other solution. Fortunately, we were able to obtain the \$30,000 through the timely intervention of the Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit corporation in Washington, D.C.

As a result, the Nature Conservancy now holds a \$30,000 first mortgage on this property, plus a signed agreement that no lots will be sold for commercial development until June 1, 1965, and that in the meantime bargaining shall continue in good faith for acquisition of this property by a public agency. In other words, the Nature Conservancy has bought us a 1-year period of grace.

But this applies only to the property on the lower end of the lake. No specific commitment has been made by any of the other property owners.

owners of almost all the property have already indicated, not only their willingness, but their desire to sell. The goal seems to be clear and fully acceptable to all, and almost within our grasp.

We have come a long way, and we are deeply appreciative to Senator Church for the leadership and assistance he has so generously given in this effort. We certainly appreciate, too, the support we have had from Senator Jordan and Senator Neuberger. We are most grateful to the members and the staff of the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee for taking the time, right after a long and busy session of Congress, to come out here and listen to our problems.

But we know the clock is still running, and already 3 months of our year's grace period are gone. This I referred to earlier in the statement, which was a year's period of grace, ending next July 1, that we obtained by assistance from the Nature Conservancy to lend \$30,000 to the owners of one of the properties on the lake so that they would be able to meet their obligations and hold this property for another year before breaking it up into homesites. We know, too, that still another property owner has recently put up "no trespassing" signs and is offering lots for sale. We fully expect more setbacks before ultimate success.

However, we all know ours is an entirely unselfish program. We know it is in the best interest of us all, and certainly an obligation that we owe to future generations to see that this unique bit of beautiful, native America which has almost miraculously come down to us unspoiled, should remain so for our children and their children to enjoy. With virtually no objection from any side, no homes or people to uproot, the nationwide support that has been generated, the encouragement that the presence of this committee here today gives us, we are confident that the way will be found to save our little lake.

Thank you very much.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Mr. Manley, for a very splendid statement.

Senator Church, would you have any questions?

Senator CHURCH. Art, the first two letters you introduced into the record were letters of endorsement of the bill?

Mr. MANLEY. Yes, they were.

Senator CHURCH. I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Manley has been devoted to this cause of the preservation of Upper Priest Lake for a long time. I don't know of anyone who has worked harder for the objective, and I want to commend him for it. He is a very public spirited and fine citizen. The State of Idaho can be very proud of him.

Mr. Chairman, may I introduce at this time a letter from the St. Maries Chamber of Commerce endorsing the bill?

Senator BIBLE. Yes, you may. The letter will be made a part of the record.

Senator CHURCH. Also, a personal letter from Charles H. Scribner, from St. Maries, Idaho, which was handed me a minute ago, also giving strong support to this bill.

Senator BIBLE. Very fine. They will also be made a part of the record at this point.

(The letters referred to follow:)

ST. MARIES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
October 7, 1964.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: The St. Maries Chamber of Commerce wishes to go on record as strongly supporting Senator Church's efforts to preserve the shores of Upper Priest Lake in its natural beauty for all to view and enjoy.

There are very few spots in all America that were its equal before "improvements" were initiated. Now it is one of the very few that remain unspoiled. If the opportunity to preserve this spot is not embraced promptly it will be too late, and one more item can be added to the long list that we Americans have devastated, despoiled, or annihilated.

This is a rare and fleeting chance to save a little spot of this Nation, for posterity to view and study. Unless we preserve a few such areas, it will be difficult indeed for our children's children to visualize what America really looked like when their ancestors first came to these shores.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES H. SCRIBNER,
Chairman, Tourism and Recreation Committee.

CHARLES H. SCRIBNER & ASSOCIATES,
St. Maries, Idaho, October 1, 1964.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS.

GENTLEMEN: I wish to go on record as strongly supporting Senator Church's effort to preserve the shores of Upper Priest Lake in its natural beauty for all to view and enjoy.

There are very few spots in all America that were its equal before "improvements" were initiated. Now it is one of the very few that remain unspoiled. If the opportunity to preserve this spot is not embraced promptly it will be too late, and one more item can be added to the long list that we Americans have devastated, despoiled, or annihilated.

This is a rare, and fleeting, chance to save a little spot of this Nation for posterity to view and study. Unless we preserve a few such areas it will be difficult indeed for our children's children to visualize what America really looked like when their ancestors first came to these shores.

CHARLES H. SCRIBNER.

Senator BIBLE. Mr. Manley, did you want to make another statement?

Mr. MANLEY. One more statement. We have very many people who are not able to be here today for various reasons, and I am taking the liberty of suggesting to them that they send a written statement to Senator Bible in Washington and I ask that their statements be included in the hearing record.

Senator BIBLE. That will be fine. Obviously we are under no pressure now because we have adjourned. They can be made a part of the record. There will be plenty of time to submit the statements.

The order will be that the record will be kept open for 30 days and we will make that, we will say, until November 15, for the purpose of including all statements desired in the record. That will simply be for the benefit of anyone who wants to make that type of statement. They should address it to my attention in care of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

Senator Jordan, did you have any questions of Mr. Manley?

Senator JORDAN. No questions, but my thanks to Art for a fine statement.

Senator BIBLE. Very well. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. No questions, except to commend Art on his activities in conservation and wildlife matters in all of Idaho.

Senator CHURCH. Has the Idaho Wildlife Federation taken a position on this thing?

Mr. MANLEY. Yes, they endorsed this proposal wholeheartedly.

Senator BIBLE. I have a number of communications to be made a part of the record at this point.

One is from Bernard N. Staum. He may well be listed as a witness, but his letter will be made a part of the record at this point.

I have also a letter from Sidney E. Smith, and that will be made a part of the record at this point.

A letter from Mr. Everett I. Richards, who is president of the Commercial Fishermen's Association at Sandpoint. That will be made a part of the record at this point.

I have a letter from Dr. Leonard Dwinnell, Spokane, and that will be made a part of the record.

I have also a letter from E. G. Moffitt, which may be made a part of the record at this point.

And may I introduce a letter addressed to me from Mrs. Corrine M. Raine, and that will be made a part of the record at this point. It was addressed to Senator Jordan and he has handed it to me.

Another letter is from Helen Johnson, Clarence Johnson, and Annie Humphreys. It will also be included at this point.

(The letters referred to follow:)

NORDMAN, IDAHO.

Senator LEN B. JORDAN:

Realizing that my trend of thinking is not in the "mainstream" of current thought, I must at least voice my opinion in regard to this purchase of private land "for purposes of promoting the general welfare." First, I have a selfish motive in objecting to it. If it can be done in this case, what is to prevent our omnipotent Government from some time, in the future, seizing my home and land on the same pretext?

Reason No. 2:

To think that with today's ever-increasing use of a "primitive area" as accessible as Upper Priest Lake it can be maintained in its pristine beauty is wishful, though I do not deny very pleasant, thinking.

Reason No. 3:

With only 40 percent of Bonner County under private ownership, as regards land area, it seems logical to me that we should not discourage any potential development of homesites with their additional revenue in taxes to our county. Why not a trade with the Forest Service for an equivalent of lake frontage on the west shore of Lower Priest Lake, which would as successfully protect the primitive characteristics of the upper lake and still not deny the rights of self-enterprise to those who now hold title to the lands involved?

These are the basic objections to this proposed purchase, as I am able to see them.

Sincerely,

BERNARD N. STAUM.

KALISPEL BAY, PRIEST LAKE, IDAHO, October 7, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Senate Public Lands Committee,
Priest Lake, Idaho.

DEAR SENATOR: I have been interested in Priest Lake since 1914 when I made my first visit to the lake, spending my summer vacation rowing from Coolin to the head of the upper lake at the mouth of the river.

Since that time my family and I have spent many vacations at Priest Lake—and in 1952 we purchased a home here on the lakeshore—and now spend many months each year here, enjoying the beauty of Priest Lake.

When friends visit us it is one of the highlights of their visit when we can take them on a trip to Upper Priest Lake. They are always thrilled by its beauty and we never tire of the scenery. It is a real beauty spot.

We trust that it will be possible to keep this beauty spot unspoiled and in its natural state for generations yet to come.

Very truly yours,

SIDNEY E. SMITH AND FAMILY.

SAND POINT, IDAHO, *October 10, 1964.*

MR. VERN KIDD,
*President, District 1, Idaho Wildlife Federation,
Priest Lake, Idaho*

DEAR SIR: As we are unable to be present at today's meeting, this association knowing that Upper Priest Lake is one of the few primitive areas left in Idaho, and its beauty unsurpassed, would like to go on record as being in favor of the preservation of Upper Priest Lake in its natural state.

Very truly yours,

EVERETT I. RICHARDS,
President, Commercial Fisherman's Association.

SPOKANE, WASH., *October 6, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Senate Public Lands Subcommittee,
Priest Lake, Idaho*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Since moving to this area 12 years ago I have spent many weekends and several of my vacations camping at Priest Lake, both on the islands and on Upper Priest Lake. These times have been pleasant enough so that recently I have purchased a lot so that I might have a more stable home there.

I would urge you to act favorably on the proposed plan to keep Upper Priest Lake a wilderness area so that people in the future may continue to enjoy out-of-door sports such as I have.

Sincerely,

LEONARD A. DWINNELL, M.D.

PRIEST LAKE, PRIEST RIVER, IDAHO,
October 8, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Senate Public Lands Committee,
Priest Lake, Idaho.*

DEAR SIR: I have been a property owner here since 1955.

To me and my friends, the thoroughfare and the upper lake has been the most scenic and the most beautiful spot on Priest Lake.

With no cabins and boat docks to mar its beauty, it should be left for everyone to enjoy in its natural setting.

Very respectfully yours,

E. G. MOFFITT.

PRIEST RIVER, IDAHO,
October 5, 1964.

Senator LEN JORDAN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

HONORABLE SIR: In regards to the Upper Priest Lake area that is now privately owned and is under debate.

I would like to say as a citizen, a landowner, and a realtor of the Priest Lake area.

First and above all, I am against any type of condemnation of any lands.

Due to the amount of land owned by our Federal Government and State, against the amount of privately owned land in Bonner County as well as our State of Idaho.

I feel this land if it must be owned by the national forest or State that an even trade of comparable land should be made, and not a purchase.

I feel this is not fair to take more land off our tax records and burden what few taxpayers we have keeping our schools, State, etc., going.

As a realtor I see a great need in this area for more development, I feel this would lessen the pressure for a State sales tax of which we are now threatened with another tax burden.

I trust this land and its owners will be dealt with fairly and not to satisfy just a few.

My sincere statement,

CORRINE M. RAINE.

OCTOBER 8, 1964.

Senate Public Lands Subcommittee:

We are in favor of keeping the region at Upper Priest Lake in its natural state, and also approve the purchase of three tracts of privately owned property to be added to Kaniksu National Forest, provided this transaction is agreeable to owners of said property.

HELEN D. JOHNSON.
CLARENCE M. JOHNSON.
ANNIE E. HUMPHREYS.

Senator BIBLE. I think each of us has probably received some telegrams, probably very much the same, from the Kramers in Spokane, and one from Roy Leland, in Spokane, and one from Mr. Ben Kelpman, in Spokane.

I think these telegrams have been directed to each of the members of the subcommittee, and we will have a staff member check them out, but these telegrams can be made a part of the record at this point.

(The communications referred to follow:)

SPokane, WASH., *October 6, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Hills Resort, Priest Lake, Idaho:

We are anxious to help raise money to keep Upper Priest Lake in the natural state. Would you consider selling the developed leased lots between Outlet Bay and Priest Lake Marina as a method of financing the purchase of Upper Priest Lake land? Our investment exceeds \$32,000 and we agree to purchase the land for the appraised value.

Mrs. ALEX KRAMER.
ROBERT A. KRAMER.

SPokane, WASH., *October 7, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Hills Resort, Priest Lake, Idaho:

Would the Forest Service consider selling the already improved leased lots between Outlet Bay and Hills Resort. Many of these present leaseholders including myself would be desirous in purchasing these lots at appraised price. I have \$21,000 in improvements on my lot presently—this would be a way to finance purchase of the Upper Priest Lake land.

ROY M. LELAND.

SPokane, WASH., *October 7, 1964.*

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Hills Resort, Priest Lake, Idaho:

A possibility of financing and preserving the Upper Priest Lake property as a national forest would be that the Forest Service consider selling lease land as a method of financing or making advance lease payments.

BEN KELPMAN.

Senator BIBLE. I would like to make a part of the record a telegram I have received from Congressman Ralph Harding, your Representative, your southern Congressman, who says:

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 8, 1964.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Hills Resort, Priest Lake, Idaho:

I want to go on record supporting Senator Frank Church's proposal to assure public ownership of the land surrounding Upper Priest Lake. I pledge to work with Senator Church and those citizens of north Idaho who are interested in preserving this beautiful area for the enjoyment of all our people.

RALPH HARDING,
Member of Congress.

Senator BIBLE. Before I call on Mr. Swinney, I would like to make a part of the record a telegram from Governor Smylie, of Idaho, telling me he regrets that he could not be here today because of a prior commitment. He will be with us tomorrow when we meet on the Nez Perce proposal at Lewiston, and indicates that he will be represented at the hearing today by Mr. Jerry Swinney, director of the Idaho Historical Society.

(The telegram referred to follows:)

BOISE, IDAHO, October 7, 1964.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
U.S. Senator, Care of Chuck Sowder, Coeur d'Alene Press,
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho:

This message will be delivered to you through courtesy of Chuck Sowder, a reporter covering your hearings at Priest Lake. I regret that business involving the 1965 Girl Scout encampment makes it impossible for me to be with you. I do want you and the members of your subcommittee to know that the government of the State of Idaho, and all agencies having cognizance, earnestly support Federal legislation designed to acquire all privately owned lands on the shoreline of Upper Priest Lake and the Thoroughfare Passage between the main and upper lakes. The preservation of Upper Priest Lake in its present unspoiled form will make it a national treasure of the first consequence in years to come. It is accessible and still remote. Its quiet beauty makes it a veritable jewel in the mountains. It is in the national interest to preserve it for all time. We appreciate your interest. I can assure you that support for the Priest Lake proposal is nearly unanimous. We urge enactment of the legislation and I ask that this wire be made a part of the record of your committee's proceedings. I look forward to seeing you in Lewiston Friday.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. SMYLIE,
Governor of Idaho.

Senator BIBLE. We will now hear Mr. Swinney.

STATEMENT OF JERRY SWINNEY, REPRESENTING HON. ROBERT E. SMYLIE, GOVERNOR OF IDAHO

Mr. SWINNEY. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, ladies and gentlemen, the Governor has asked me to represent him here, an honor that has come to me only by chance, because through a long-standing engagement with the Girl Scout organization for today in connection with the plans for the meeting at Farragut, he is quite unable to be here. He particularly asked that I express to you gentlemen and to you Idaho people who are seated here, the very great interest he has in the project, his strong feeling about it and his regrets, beyond his formal regrets, at his inability to attend. He has

expressed his point of view to you in a telegram he has asked to have become a part of the record.

Senator BIBLE. I have received the telegram, and it will certainly be made a part of the record.

Mr. SWINNEY. I might say he talked with me at some length yesterday about his interest in the matter at hand, saying that the resources of the various States form the resources of the United States. Idaho has been most generously endowed with scenic resources of the sort we are talking about here, of which this is the most important.

He feels strongly about the need for saving these resources and about the significance of such resources for the Nation, as well as Idaho. I think I am quoting him accurately, and using the phrase about Upper Priest Lake, "a veritable jewel in the wilderness." I feel sure he will wish to express this opinion to you informally when he meets with you tomorrow and he begs your pardon for not coming today.

Thank you very much.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Mr. Swinney. Do you have any questions of Mr. Swinney, Senator Church?

Senator CHURCH. No.

Senator BIBLE. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. No.

Senator BIBLE. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. No.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness will be Vern J. Kidd, District No. 1, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Route 5, Priest River.

Mr. Kidd.

STATEMENT OF VERN J. KIDD, IDAHO WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Mr. KIDD. Mr. Chairman, members, and friends, my statement is rather short and to the point. District No. 1 of the Idaho Wildlife Federation has devoted much time and effort in initiating the cause we are here today to discuss. Now we are at the threshold of the realization of our endeavors as reality. There must be set aside areas free from manmade scars. The preservation of this area in its natural state would be a fitting memorial to all the youth of this area, with a decision to be made as soon as possible. It is our sincere desire that such a decision can be made and the purchase of the privately owned lands be made and entered as a part of the Kaniksu National Forest so that Upper Priest Lake can be preserved in its natural state.

This is from Vern Kidd, president of the Idaho Wildlife Federation District No. 1.

I have a statement also from the Priest Lake Sportsmen's Association with a membership of 400, to the members of the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee.

We urge you to support and recommend saving Upper Priest Lake for the future youth and citizens of these United States. It is felt if the lake is retained in its natural state and unspoiled beauty for future generations to enjoy, as we of the present have, no price is too great for that privilege.

RUSS MARTIN,
President.

E. B. BAILEY,
Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mr. Kidd. Do you have any questions of the witness, Senator Church?

Senator CHURCH. Vern, how long have you lived in this county?

Mr. KIDD. Since 1947.

Senator CHURCH. You are pretty well acquainted with the people in the immediate area?

Mr. KIDD. I know most of them and consider all of them my friends.

Senator CHURCH. Vern, what would your judgment be as to the general public's feeling, among the people who live in this area, toward the proposal contained in this bill of preserving the present virgin character of Upper Priest Lake?

Mr. KIDD. Well, this has been rather an odd thing in the fight to save this Upper Priest Lake. As a rule, you have lots of opposition to anything you try to accomplish, but in this everybody has been favorable. We have explored every possibility in the State to try and find some avenue to trade this land or purchase it, but the State has been unable to do anything and the Governor has asked for Federal help in this matter. It is the only way it can be saved. It has been the desire of the people of Priest Lake, and the chamber of commerce, years ago, explored this. The Priest River Chamber of Commerce has explored it, and they have also explored it within the State and have never reached out for Federal aid. I might say, we thank you, Senator Church. We asked for your help and support and we have certainly got it. But I tend bar here at Hill's Resort in the summer, and I meet the hundreds of thousands of people who come through this area. The one thing that impresses all of them is Upper Priest Lake. That trip is something they remember all their lives. I put 13 years in Alaska. I traveled the inside passage and all over Alaska. I had a tour in Europe. The Government paid for it, in World War II, and I made Scotland, also, and I have never seen anything compared to the utter beauty of Upper Priest Lake. I can't say enough for it.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you. I have no further questions.

Senator BIBLE. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. No questions.

Senator BIBLE. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. No questions.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you again, Mr. Kidd.

Our next witness is Ernest Day.

We are very happy to have you with us.

STATEMENT OF ERNEST DAY, REPRESENTING THE ADA COUNTY FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT AND THE IDAHO WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

Mr. DAY. Thank you, sir. I would like to make this statement to represent the Ada County Fish and Game Department, and the Idaho Wilderness Committee, of which I am chairman. I would like to make my remarks informal and thank you and the subcommittee for the interest in conservation matters, which this particular hearing evidences, as well as other things accomplished in the Congress in the

last session. When I told my brother and partner, Don, who is a realtor, as am I, that I was coming up here, he said, "That is very interesting." Incidentally, Don was just elected president of the Idaho Real Estate Board, and when he met the national president of that organization, Mr. William Mendenhall, from North Carolina, I think the president said, "Idaho? Idaho. What do I know about Idaho?" Then he said, "For goodness sakes, save Upper Priest Lake."

He didn't say anything about potatoes or Sun Valley or white pines. He said, "Save Upper Priest Lake." I think that does evidence a fact that is of national interest and a national treasure.

To me this is somewhat of a sentimental journey. Thirty years ago I first was out on the other side of the lake on a blister rust crew, a camp on Two-Mouth Creek, and not far from Klootch Mountain, so at that early age I had a distinct regard and respect for Priest Lake. It is truly a jewel. It does seem in the nature of things that there are some things that are just a little superspecial. I don't care whether you compare it with the Hope diamond or the Taj Mahal or to some of the manmade wonders. Some of the beauties of nature are more wonderful to me. Idaho is fortunate to have several, and one of them is the jewel they call Upper Priest Lake. It is for that reason I am happy to come from another area in Idaho and put in my small pitch for the passage of this bill, which would save this unique area.

One of the things with which I agree the most I believe, Senator Church has said. I think he made the statement that without wilderness the world would be a cage, and that is the most significant statement, and without the preservation of this Upper Priest Lake, it would be a small cage. If it is preserved, it could be part of the continuing possibility of relief for people's souls, and just the type of thing we need more of. I think it is very significant that this committee is here and that the fight has been made by Art Manley and the people of this area for its preservation.

I certainly recommend and urge the passage of this bill, which will permit the saving of the wonderful resource here. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much for that effective statement.

Where is Ada County, in relation to where we are?

Mr. DAY. It is quite a long drive, I guess, 400 miles from here. It contains the capital of Idaho, and is a good 400 miles south of here.

Senator BIBLE. Is this Boise?

Mr. DAY. Yes.

Senator BIBLE. Oh, if you had said Boise, I would recognize it. I guess I could find it if I looked on any map. I have no further questions. Senator Church?

Senator CHURCH. I want to say that Ernie has long been a leader in the wildlife movement and conservation in Idaho. One of the things that he is very good at is taking pictures, and he has taken some of the most striking of the Idaho wilderness, the Sawtooth Summit, and other beauty spots in this State, of anyone I know. He mentioned the fact that this is attracting national attention. I think I should point out that the Outdoor Life magazine has been in touch with me in connection with a feature article they are thinking of doing on the Upper Priest Lake and the Reader's Digest has also indicated to me its interest. So I do believe he is not overstating the case when he says this is drawing national comment and national attention.

Senator BIBLE. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. No questions.

Senator BIBLE. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. I would like to say this: Throughout our long association in the Idaho Wildlife Federation, his friendship and cooperation have been very gratifying. I know he is a dedicated conservationist and has been a very able advocate for conservation and for other groups in Idaho.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. We appreciate your appearing here.

Our next witness is Mr. Woodworth of the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Mr. Woodworth.

STATEMENT OF JOHN R. WOODWORTH, DIRECTOR, IDAHO FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Mr. WOODWORTH. Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, Congressman White, this is a formal statement. I will read a synopsis of this if it is all right.

Senator BIBLE. The statement will be incorporated in full in the record and you may proceed, in any manner you wish.

Mr. WOODWORTH. The following are high points in the statement of policy of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission concerning the future management of the upper Priest Lake area and its status as a primitive area.

No. 1, Upper Priest Lake is one of the outstanding scenic attractions of the northern Idaho Panhandle. It is typically northwestern and one of the most uniquely beautiful areas in America.

Two, due to the primitive nature of the area, the waters of Upper Priest Lake remain as one of the last strongholds for the Idaho native cutthroat trout, together with other types of wildlife favored by primitive or wilderness-type habitat.

Three, great advantage to retaining Upper Priest Lake in a wilderness condition stems from the fact it can be easily reached from nearby Priest Lake where there are adequate facilities for handling the tourist public. The only entry to the area would be by the beautiful Thoroughfare River, connecting the two lakes. It is possible to visit the area by way of the Thoroughfare River at a minimum of cost and effort.

In view of these three points, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission has urged the Federal Congress to take steps necessary to acquire the private lands surrounding the Priest Lake on one side, and turn these lands over to the U.S. Forest Service for permanent management as primitive area.

Senator BIBLE. I ask one question, Mr. Woodworth. It comes up repeatedly in the creation of recreation areas and national parks and seashores and lakeshores. Assuming this proposal goes forward and actually is made a part of the national forest, who would have control over the fishing and hunting in the area of upper Priest Lake?

Mr. WOODWORTH. It is my understanding that would remain in the control of the State of Idaho.

Senator BIBLE. And the limits set, concerning the catch of fish and the season, would all be handled by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission?

Mr. WOODWORTH. Yes, sir.

Senator BIBLE. Is that same thing true about hunting? Is there hunting in this area?

Mr. WOODWORTH. Yes.

Senator BIBLE. What do you hunt there, deer and what else?

Mr. WOODWORTH. Primarily deer and some bear and upland game birds and grouse.

Senator BIBLE. Even though this is a national forest zone, the State of Idaho sets the limits. Do you, if you shoot a doe, get any repercussions?

Mr. WOODWORTH. No, we have a fine working relationship in Idaho with the other Federal agencies, particularly the U.S. Forest Service. It is our policy to work closely with them, and rely on information they have prior to any setting of seasons. We have meetings with the Forest Service personnel and work out the details, and we have absolutely no trouble along that line.

Senator BIBLE. I am glad to hear that. This is one of the main complaints I hear constantly from my own Nevada people, in efforts with the park service people or the fish and wildlife people, and other associations, where you can hunt and where you can't. Can you shoot a doe or can't you? You shoot a doe and who determines whether it is lawful or not?

Mr. WOODWORTH. There is no problem there. I had an opportunity a month ago to present a paper at the International Congress of the Fish & Game Conservation Directors on natural resources management. The main theme was that we have to work with the people if we are going to meet the demands on us in the future. It is a cooperative effort with all people. We have to do it on a cooperative basis.

Senator BIBLE. You contemplate no difficulty in either hunting or fishing in the area of Upper Priest Lake?

Mr. WOODWORTH. None whatever.

Senator BIBLE. All right.

Senator Church?

Senator CHURCH. I put the talk Mr. Woodworth made at the conference in the Congressional Record the other day. I thought it was a very competent statement. If we are going to get on with the job we have to do to preserve our wildlife and our natural beauty spots and game, it is going to take the cooperation of both State and Federal Governments. I think, if you are having trouble, you might call Mr. Woodworth in for consultation.

Senator BIBLE. He undoubtedly knows Frank Groves.

Mr. WOODWORTH. Very well. I may have learned enough in the field agency to be of help in State associations.

Senator CHURCH. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. I have no questions, except to thank the commissioner for being here. He is very effective in his report of the fish and wildlife in Idaho.

Senator BIBLE. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. No questions.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. Your full statement will be inserted at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JOHN R. WOODWORTH, DIRECTOR, IDAHO FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

My name is John R. Woodworth, Director of the Idaho Fish and Game Department, and secretary of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. According to Idaho law, and as further implemented by the policies of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, I am empowered and directed to exercise general supervision of the Idaho Fish and Game Department in accomplishing the wildlife policy of the State. Quoting from the Idaho Statutes, "All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish within the State of Idaho is hereby declared to be the property of the State of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places under such conditions or by such means or in such manner as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife and provide for the citizens of this State, and as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing, and trapping."

Under this general policy, it is the desire of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to make a statement concerning the preservation of lands in the Upper Priest Lake region of Idaho in a primitive or wilderness condition.

The Upper Priest Lake region of Idaho remains today as one of the most beautiful scenic areas in America. It contains a rare combination of beautiful mountain lakes between green-timbered mountains, resting against a background of rugged alpine slopes. Nowhere in the Pacific Northwest can you find a region that would more typically represent the unspoiled beauty of this part of the United States.

Not only is this Upper Priest Lake country unique in its pristine beauty but, due to the primitive nature of the area, it furnishes one of the last strongholds for such wilderness type of wildlife as the native cutthroat trout and Rocky Mountain elk, to say nothing of the natural value of the area as a home of whitetailed deer, forest grouse, and black bear.

Upper Priest Lake does more than simply serve as excellent habitat for the native cutthroat trout; it also allows the angling recreationist to enjoy the thrill of catching this unique and typically western species of trout in a truly quality type of environment. The preservation of this area is important to Idaho and the Nation as one of those last-remaining primitive locations where fishing can be enjoyed in a rare combination of the natural, unspoiled beauty of lake, stream, and forest at its very best.

This unique area has another very real value as a result of its unusual location. Lodges, resorts, and commercial developments around the main Priest Lake are always available to the recreationists using the area. It becomes a simple matter of access for the recreationist to travel by water to Upper Priest Lake through the beautiful winding Thoroughfare River connecting to two lakes and, in a matter of a couple of hours, be completely surrounded by the beautiful wilderness of Upper Priest Lake. In other words, here is an area, primitive and wild in nature, which can be reached by people at a minimum of cost and effort. Not even trails or roads are necessary to allow it to be observed and enjoyed by many, many people. Countless thousands may travel the beautifully clear waters of the Thoroughfare River to Upper Priest Lake, leaving no tracks; they can enjoy its splendor and return, leaving it entirely unspoiled and unchanged for future generations to come.

In view of these natural attributes of the area and the need for maintaining wilderness-type conditions, not only for the enjoyment of the scenic beauties, but for the benefit of the wilderness type of wildlife to be found in the area, we do strongly urge that the Congress of the United States consider the acquisition of the private lands surrounding Upper Priest Lake and the Thoroughfare River. We further suggest that these lands be added to the U.S. National forest system and administered permanently as a primitive, wilderness-type area for the enjoyment of all future generations.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Judge Sleep, probate judge for Bonner County, at Sandpoint.

I am always delighted to see a woman judge. I have always wanted to practice in front of a woman judge so I am delighted to see you. I am glad to see women on the bench in the State of Idaho. I think it is a wonderful thing.

**STATEMENT OF JUDGE FRANCES SLEEP, PROBATE JUDGE FOR
BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO**

Judge SLEEP. Thank you, Senator Bible. I wish to thank you for this opportunity to read into the record my support for the preservation of the natural beauty of the little Upper Priest Lake. Although this little gem of white water is easily reached, it is still a quiet retreat because of the unusual geographic fact of the Thoroughfare River connecting it with the Lower Priest Lake. This adds to its interest and beauty. One of my deepest concerns is the concern of the youth. It is because of this that I am also concerned with the preservation or conservation of Upper Priest Lake.

Senator Bible, we need to look ahead into the years that will see more and more of this Nation's population moving west. We should now be setting aside some of these natural and unspoiled and still natural beauty places. Oldtimers in Bonner County, and I can recall this with our Representative White, and many other people in this room—and an oldtimer here is someone who has been here at least 50 years—can say, "Well, when I was a boy, or I was a girl, my father used to bring me over here to hunt, or camp, or fish, and now look at it." Down around the big lake at Pend Oreille there is very little accessible public land. You can't even get down to the water in many places. I am not meaning to imply we should not have people moving into our area but I do mean, because we are encouraging people to join us in Bonner County, we should also be planning for the years ahead so their children can say, when they take their families to little Upper Priest in the year 1994, "Isn't this a beautiful camping spot. It hasn't changed a bit since my dad brought me here way back in 1964."

I would hope that such preservation can be assured by careful planning now and accomplished by reasonable and equitable means. I thank you very much.

Senator BIBLE. We very much appreciate your testimony, Judge Sleep. Do you have any questions?

Senator Church?

Senator CHURCH. I just want to thank the judge for being such an effective witness.

Senator BIBLE. And Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. No questions, except I want to thank the judge for her statement.

Senator BIBLE. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. I would like to say her statement is appreciated, and also the other things that she has done in the youth program in northern Idaho are appreciated by the people of northern Idaho.

Senator BIBLE. The next witness is A. R. McFarland of the Taxpayers League, Sandpoint. Mr. McFarland.

**STATEMENT OF A. R. McFARLAND, REPRESENTING THE TAXPAYERS
LEAGUE, SANDPOINT, IDAHO**

Mr. McFARLAND. Senator Bible, and the other members of your committee; Congressman White, and citizens, I am J. R. McFarland. As our good friend just said, I also qualify as an oldtimer. I reside in Sandpoint, Idaho, and I speak for some 95 or 96 signers of the following statement:

We, the undersigned owners of private, taxpaying property, are opposed in principle to further acquisition of private land by the State or Federal Government, but where a common good can be obtained by the acquisition of private land in exchange for public land, we would entertain such an exchange. In this specific case, we believe the preservation of Upper Priest Lake in its present state is desirable, even though it might mean the acquisition of this private land outside the forest boundary by the U.S. Forest Service. If the land should be acquired by negotiation, purchase or exchange, we believe it should be at the reasonable price consistent with established values in that area. If it should be acquired by negotiation, we feel the U.S. Forest Service should release and make available for private ownership an equal value of similar land in this same general area, which we would suggest be on the west side of the main Priest Lake. This is a particularly important thing for Bonner County because 90 percent of the land is in public ownership and deem it essential there be no further erosion of the tax basis. We are unanimously opposed under any circumstance to acquisition of the land in question by condemnation.

(Additional signatures to the foregoing statement were submitted by Don Samuelson and are in the files of the committee.)

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much for that statement. You opened up a new and also provocative field in this area. You are obviously a very qualified witness. I think it is a very fine statement and a broader statement than we usually receive on the question when we have private ownership involved. Let me develop it a little bit for the record. If I understand it properly, three parcels embrace something like 400 acres of private ownership; is that correct?

Mr. McFARLAND. I think so.

Senator BIBLE. As I understand, they are the only parcels having to be acquired dealing with three ownerships. It is refreshing to have 3 and not 3,000, as we run into in many areas, which is very difficult, and I can understand and I am sympathetic with these people who have gone into these areas and built a home and just don't want to leave that home. I don't blame them. I have a home on Lake Tahoe and I would feel very unhappy if they came in and condemned my property. You say 90 percent of the land ownership in Bonner County is in public ownership; is that correct?

Mr. McFARLAND. Yes, sir.

Senator BIBLE. Now, could you give us, or do we have someone here from the official county family that could indicate the valuation and the tax revenue that Bonner County receives from these three parcels that are in this area? Would you know that?

Mr. McFARLAND. Yes, sir; I would like to say, first, any comments I might make now would represent only my opinion and I am not speaking for any of the other signers for the statement I presented.

Senator BIBLE. The question I asked, though, is one of reality. It isn't a conclusion or a matter of opinion. It is a matter of fact. We have three private parcels here on the assessment rolls of this county

and they would show they are assessed at so many dollars. You may not be the correct witness for this.

Mr. McFARLAND. There may be a gentleman here who is well qualified, but I would say I feel we should not only ask the current valuation but the future valuation. We live in this northern Idaho lake country. I realize that there has been a great increase in values of recreational lands and this has a great potential. There is a gentleman here, the Bonner County assessor.

Senator BIBLE. He is the proper witness, surely. Developing this a little further, I would share your hope that this can be worked out on a negotiated basis by arriving at a fair figure that reaches the approval of both the buyer and the seller, which is the correct way to do it, and this is what we try to do in Government. We are constantly bothered by the fact we have to condemn and this brings considerable public resistance. I would hope it could be worked on a voluntary purchase or negotiation or exchange basis, and we have found these exchanges work out very well. We had it in Point Rey, a beautiful area on the Pacific Ocean just north of San Francisco. There we had a real tough problem because we had some dairymen there who made their living by using this pastureland at Point Rey, and they were not about to sell their land. They fought all the way through the court system to resist, but we worked out some compensation where they do get some land to keep them in business and keep them going, but they were opposing the park on the undeveloped land. You don't have that particular problem and I would hope we could work it out by negotiation and voluntary purchase, with a free buyer and a free seller, or exchanging it, because we have done this repeatedly and it has worked out well.

I don't know what the facts are, whether we are talking about a relatively small amount of acreage, 400 acres, but I share your hope that it could be worked out. It is the American way to do it. We are driven at times to the place where the only possible way you can work out an inholding is to condemn. I would subscribe to that only as a last resort. I would hope we wouldn't have to do that here. I want to be completely honest as to the ultimate things that can be done, because there is no use in my misleading people. I am not about to mislead anybody. If there are questions, this is the place to raise them, to have a complete exchange of ideas. I certainly do appreciate your testimony, a great deal, today.

Mr. McFARLAND. Senator Bible, I would like to make one more comment on condemnation as such. It is a very powerful tool, and frankly, I believe it is used much too freely many times. Certainly there is a place for condemnation in our way of life, but I feel this is not the place for it. I think I can say this, I can speak for all of the parties who signed the statement I read to you, they are unanimously opposed to acquisition of the land in question by condemnation.

Senator BIBLE. Yes, I caught that statement. I understood it. That is really where the problem sometimes gets difficult because I indicated to you my own personal feeling was that it should be used only as a last resort. Where the land is undeveloped and you have no homes, perhaps it can be worked out on an exchange basis, but if you are driven to condemnation it becomes a little difficult. I served as attorney general in Nevada for 8 years, and I was a member of the

highway board and we condemned a lot of property in a community west of Reno. The next time I ran for office, I lost every single vote in that place. I know what condemnation does. This is no way to win friends and it should be used only as the ultimate. I am sure this committee senses that. I know both Senator Church and Senator Jordan work very actively on this Interior Committee, and they will tell you this is the problem that haunts us time after time. But I want to face into it honestly and frankly and have you present your position. I hope it can be worked out without condemnation.

Senator CHURCH. I share your views on that question. I think we ought to get into the record, so that all the facts are here, what the present assessed values are and what the taxes are, so that we will know what is going to be given up—relinquished—in the event public ownership replaces the present private ownership. I also think every effort should be made to negotiate purchase, and I think the possibility for exchange should be fully explored.

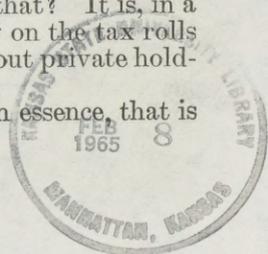
On the other hand, I would be remiss in my sense of responsibility to the public if I weren't to say that if the right to condemn is precluded, there would be no protection against lifting prices beyond the point of value, and if prices are to be hijacked out of reach, then I couldn't justify the spending of tax money. This is a question that comes down to negotiation between the parties and ultimately, in some cases, it comes down to a court condemnation proceeding in which a jury makes the judgment. But both the public interest and the private interest has to be taken into fair consideration, and if it is worth doing, then it has to be done in a way that protects both the public and the private interests. I think we need to get all of the facts. That is the purpose of this hearing. Then I think we should proceed in a way that gives every possibility for negotiation and exchange, if it can be done.

Senator BIBLE. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. Mr. Chairman, I share your concern over the thought of ultimate condemnation of any property. You know I have expressed this many times at other hearings, and Mr. McFarland brought out a very important point when he said not only is this property on the tax rolls, and I presume it would be a nominal sum, but the potential yield, taxwise, of this property, is something that is pretty hard to forecast. I would certainly want to go extremely slow. I would want to exhaust every possible avenue of negotiation and exchange, and then I would still have great misgivings about an outright condemnation.

You know the difficulty we had in other areas over in Oregon and Michigan when we started talking about condemnation. We get into trouble and serious trouble. I think we have to take a good hard look at every conceivable way of doing it without resorting to condemnation. We have several wires here and they have been introduced into the record, but some people with property on Priest Lake suggested they would be happy to buy those sites and that money might be released for the purchase of this property on Upper Priest Lake. Would you and your group agree to some such procedure as that? It is, in a sense, not an exchange, but it is a putting of property on the tax rolls on big Priest Lake in order to make it possible to buy out private holdings on Upper Priest.

Mr. McFARLAND. I think I could safely say that, in essence, that is our statement.



Senator JORDAN. We will explore this later with some officials of the Forest Service, when the time comes, because I think they are avenues which need to be fully explored before I would want to be a party to any condemnation.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. I would only like to say, in concert with the rest of the members of your committee, Mr. Chairman, that I think the exchange procedure should be fully explored. I think that the general idea of condemnation for such things as wildlife habitation, or recreation, for fish and wildlife enhancement, sometimes in certain people's minds has a different conception than condemnation for roads and normal needs for commerce and the economy of the country. I do appreciate, however, condemnation in this area may be needed at times.

I know in the committee of the House of Representatives—I serve on your companion committee, Mr. Chairman—we have had it before us many times. It is very explicitly pointed out the Federal Government does have this power to condemn for fish and wildlife enhancement and for wildlife habitation, for access, for recreation, and I will admit sometimes I feel that it should not be employed in this area. I realize there are specific cases, but I think we should proceed very carefully before we employ eminent domain and condemnation.

Senator BIBLE. I am very happy to have those fine statements and appreciate your statement, Mr. McFarland. You now move us into a problem area. We will have a full and complete record on it.

Our next witness is Mr. Don Samuelson who is State senator from Bonner County. We are very happy to have you with us.

STATEMENT OF HON. DON SAMUELSON, STATE SENATOR, BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO

Mr. SAMUELSON. Senator Bible and members of your committee, I am Don Samuelson, State senator from Bonner County. I am chairman of the Public Resources Committee in the Idaho Senate and I have been vice president of the Idaho Wildlife Federation and have been a director for many years of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, plus I have been chairman of the five northern counties for two terms. I have worked quite closely with many of these problems, and during the last term of the senate, or the last term of the legislature, I worked quite closely with the land department, and specifically Roger Gurnsey, in trying to work out some means by which we could trade this land and try to come up with some way we could do this without condemnation; that we could acquire this property and keep it in the natural state as it is right now.

I have two statements, one from the Bonner County Sportsmen's Association, a brief one I would like to read. I have one of my own, and I would like, before I get into those—I would like to turn in one to the committee to be included with the one Mr. McFarland read you.

Senator BIBLE. These are additional signatures, the same thing as the petition?

Mr. SAMUELSON. Yes, sir; and that was handed to me on the way up here, and I haven't had the occasion to give them to Mr. McFarland to include with his, so I ask that they be kept in the record.

Senator BIBLE. They will be kept together.

(The statement referred to is printed on p. 27.)

Mr. SAMUELSON. The letter from the Bonner County Sportsmen's Association of Sandpoint says:

The officers of our club will be unable to attend the meeting on Thursday. However, through State Senator Don Samuelson, who has offered to represent the Bonner County Sportsmen's Association, we wish to express ourselves in support of the preservation of Upper Priest Lake in its natural state. Our club of 200 members is 100 percent behind this worthwhile project and wish you every success in accomplishing your objective.

ELMER J. NIKKOLA,

President of the Bonner County Sportsmen's Association.

I offer this letter and ask that it be included in the record.

Senator BIBLE. We are very happy to have that done.

Mr. SAMUELSON. My own statement I would like to read.

During the time, or in the last 2 years since this has been an issue in the county and all the sportsmen's organizations and local groups have been working on this project many people have contacted me and this is my evaluation of their comments to me during this time.

Since the announcement of the hearing to be held at Priest Lake on October 8, I have had many people contact me about this project. Almost unanimously they have voted that to keep Upper Priest Lake in its natural state would be a good, big asset to Bonner County and the State of Idaho. At the same time they have expressed their concern about the amount of private lands off of our tax rolls, and the amount of land that is now in public ownership. In behalf of the people of Bonner County I would urge you to consider this very carefully, and if you see fit to go ahead and purchase the private lands to preserve the Little Lake, we would urge you to sell off Federal lands of equal value. The schools of Bonner County and the State of Idaho need every bit of taxes they can collect at the present time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Senator BIBLE. I appreciate your statement, Senator, a great deal.

Again, could you indicate the approximate population of Bonner County?

Mr. SAMUELSON. 15,472 as of the 1962 census.

Senator BIBLE. Is that a fairly constant figure?

Mr. SAMUELSON. It is fairly steady. It has stayed fairly stable over the last 10 years.

Senator BIBLE. What is your largest community?

Mr. SAMUELSON. Sandpoint.

Senator BIBLE. What roughly is the population of Sandpoint?

Mr. SAMUELSON. It is about 4,000 or 4,500, and three other small communities that make it about 6,000 in the immediate area.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. Senator Church?

Senator CHURCH. No questions, Mr. Chairman. I think you raised the same problem that we have already discussed here, and I again want to reiterate that the possibility of exchange should be thoroughly explored.

Mr. SAMUELSON. I know the people of Bonner County will very much appreciate that. We are very much concerned about our tax basis in the county.

Senator CHURCH. I think this is one of the matters the committee might well counsel upon.

Senator BIBLE. Yes, we are going to. My proposed conduct of this committee meeting will be to hear the public witnesses first, and then I will conclude with a statement from the Forest Service, because we have a witness, Mr. John Beebe, the supervisor of the national forest here, and I know he can answer a lot of questions. I hope to conclude with him, after we have heard all of the public witnesses.

Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. I want to commend Senator Samuelson for the fine statement and fair approach on this matter. I have known him back through the years. He is one of the members who took me on the trip to Canada 10 or 12 years ago. I know he is a dedicated conservationist and I am happy to have his statement in the record.

Senator BIBLE. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. I want to also acknowledge that Don has long been associated with conservation matters and wildlife.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Charles Scribner, from whom we already have a letter. You are here in person, and that is better than a letter. We are delighted to see you.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES SCRIBNER, ST. MARIES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. SCRIBNER. Senator, I submitted a couple of short statements, and I will not enlarge upon them to amount to anything.

I am heartily in favor of this bill of preserving Upper Priest Lake. One thing I want to bring out is the growth of the recreational use. It is simply amazing that time is running out on us faster than we have any idea. I will illustrate that with a little experience I had. In 1931 I went up the St. Joe River and I saw one fisherman and no cars. The same trip on Labor Day weekend of 1963, there was something over 1,700 cars. There was no chance to park. I saw several people spread their picnic lunches on the hoods of their cars this far [indicating] from the wheel tracks, and dozens of cars running up and down the road, looking for a place to get in.

Senator BIBLE. Mr. Scribner, I want to know how far "this far" was?

Mr. SCRIBNER. Not over 2 feet from the road. There were cars from every State in the Union except Rhode Island and Hawaii, and there were cars also from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. Possibly more.

Without seeing something like that, it is absolutely impossible to realize the impact that recreation is having on this wilderness of ours, and we are way behind on saving what little we have. As far as Upper Priest Lake goes, I can't enlarge very much on what has already been said, but even before we good Americans started tramping on this earth, Priest Lake was one of the jewels of the whole of America. There are not very many of them left. Let's go.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. Do you have any questions of Mr. Scribner, Senator Church?

Senator CHURCH. That was a real fine statement.

Senator BIBLE. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. No questions.

Senator BIBLE. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. I just want to concur in what Mr. Scribner says. The greatest force is going to be mass recreation for people of the United States.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mr. Scribner.

I am advised that it is going to take about 40 minutes for the cooks to get the table set for lunch, and I think this might be an advantageous time to take a noon break and so—they have changed signals on me again. We can run another 15 minutes, so we will run another 15 minutes. That is one thing we want to do, accommodate the cooks.

Our next witness is Mr. E. D. Bailey of the Priest Lake Sportsmen's Association. Apparently he has sent us a written statement. It is already filed. Thank you.

Our next witness is Sidney Smith of Coeur d'Alene.
Mr. Smith.

STATEMENT OF SIDNEY SMITH, COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

Mr. SMITH. Senator Bible and gentlemen of the committee, I am Sidney E. Smith, a lawyer from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The reason you have my name first on the list, as a witness, was that I was going to present the telegram of Governor Smylie. However, that has been presented and I have tendered that in, and I felt I wanted to make a personal statement, partly because in your recitation of those letters being written into the record a while ago, there was one by Sidney E. Smith. Now, I don't know what was in the contents of the letter, and it was not mine, but it was someone else's who has the same name.

Senator JORDAN. This gentleman is a lawyer from Coeur d'Alene.

Senator BIBLE. I didn't know. I was sure it was favorable, but I wanted to be sure there was no conflict.

Senator CHURCH. We have got the Smiths.

Senator BIBLE. We have the Smiths. I hope they are on the same side.

(Sidney Smith, of Opportunity, Wash., rises.)

Mr. SIDNEY SMITH. He says we are. My home is Kootenai County, the neighboring county to Bonner. I would like to enter a personal note. I have had the privilege of using Upper Priest Lake in a manner I think many of us would like to have it used, with my son and daughter. I have boated through the Thoroughfare and came on to the lake and we have fished from the shores and slept in sleeping bags on the shore in this primitive beauty. I think it is unsurpassed, and I have traveled in most of the primitive areas, and have this summer experienced the Sawtooth Mountains and the Middle Fork of the Salmon and have gone through the primitive area there on a trip for 6 days. I realize we have in northern Idaho something as fresh to the people in northern Idaho as there is in southern Idaho, and central Idaho, and it is a very gratifying and pleasant experience. As a father and a sportsman, I am heartily in favor of the program and I hope it will be fulfilled.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mr. Smith. Do you have any questions?

Senator CHURCH. No questions. I commend you for the statement.

Senator JORDAN. Thank you for the statement, Sid.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Albert Elkins, of the Priest Lake Sportsmen's Association. Mr. Elkins.

Mr. ELKINS. I have put in my statement.

Senator BIBLE. I have a copy of it here. It will be printed at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

ELKINS RESORT,
Nordman, Idaho, October 8, 1964.

To Whom It May Concern:

We wish to petition for the establishing of the Upper Priest Lake recreational area, and that the Senate committee do everything in its power to assist in this effort.

We would prefer that the land be traded rather than an outright purchase.

We hope this area can be saved from commercial development so that our children and their children can enjoy this beautiful scenic area as we have.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. ALBERT L. ELKINS.

Senator BIBLE. The next witness is Dr. Hubbard of Spokane.

STATEMENT OF DR. THATCHER HUBBARD, SPOKANE, WASH.

DR. HUBBARD. Mr. Chairman, honorable members of the subcommittee, and Congressman White, my name is Thatcher Hubbard, and I am a physician residing in Spokane, Wash. I represent no specific group but rather a large cross section of people in the Inland Empire who are in favor of the Government purchasing the private land holdings on Upper Priest Lake in order to restore it in its entirety to a wilderness state. I am chairman of the Inland Empire Committee for the Preservation of Upper Priest Lake, working with the Idaho Wildlife Federation.

I have submitted a petition in favor of preserving Upper Priest Lake containing 87 names, of whom 75 are physicians. I wouldn't want anyone to get the idea from the petition that we want to start a medicare program on Upper Priest Lake or a private floating clinic. We just think being on or in, or on the banks of Upper Priest Lake is good medicine for everyone. Howard Zahniser, late editor of "The Living Wilderness" and executive director of the Wilderness Society, said:

Nearly all mankind harbors within himself, as an individual, a desire to save from destruction that which is beautiful. * * * There is a need for preserving the wilderness because it is something superlative.

Man today, more than at any other period in his tumultuous history, has a need for nature's superlative values, and it is imperative that he recognize them, admit of their necessity and then preserve them. His need encompasses three facets: the need to continue, or regain, or find the earthy values of soil and trees and sky; the need to express his desire for wilderness experiences as an escape from the anxieties and frustrations of organization man and reshape his intuitive spirit of identity with the cosmic psyche—the loss of which would be tragic for human values; and the need for preserving the ideals of early American life which are inherent, in their last refuge, only in the wilderness areas. Hemingway, Wolff, and Faulkner used this need of nature as

the basic theme of their novels, for they realized man's need to return to the solidity of the earth.

Why has wilderness preservation become such a vital issue throughout the length and breadth of our land? Because today man is reacting to his subconscious guilt complex. A complex, subconscious at the time of its conception, when William Penn in 1681 decreed for every 5 acres of timber cleared, one acre must be spared, through its awareness of the individual man of Jacksonian democracy, through its growing awareness of general evil developed in the literature of Thoreau, Emerson, Hawthorne, and Melville; then its awareness of social evils learned through the poetry of Whittier, Lowell, Whitman, Lanier, and the prose of Twain, Howells, James, Adams, Bellamy, Crane, Dreisser, and others in that period of prodigious literary development from 1865 to 1900, and then its further awareness of the evils to nature through the minds of Brett Hart, Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, John Muir, Olaus Maurie, John Dos Passos, Rachael Carson, Bernard DeVoto, Robert Frost, to name but a few of the many equally noteworthy for their effect on the American character. These men provided the warm, gestational environment for the development of this peculiarly American subconscious guilt complex which at maturity has precipitated into the conscious thought streams of contemporary Americans causing deep concern over their profligate exploitation of the part of themselves called nature—their land, their timber, their minerals, their water, their flora and fauna—now realizing that Whitman's pioneers of a century ago have "leveled the forests far too effectively."

"But Upper Priest Lake is a microcosm of our large national forest area" you say—"Anyway why be so concerned about such a small local-interest area when we have so many problems connected with our large wilderness areas?" Because every so-called small local-interest area scattered throughout these United States provides various segments of our population with a place to experience wilderness values; each bit preserved adds to the sum total of the geographical balance of our virgin islands.

"But why preserve this small area amidst such a vast land of mountains and forests?" Because the Northwest, containing the largest remaining amount of true wilderness, is losing its wilderness far faster than any other area of the country. Some 150 million acres of national forest lands in the West are being exploited at a far greater rate than the usage of the 488 million acres of privately owned timber lands and because each bit saved adds to the total of what we will end up with 25 years from now. To turn over Upper Priest Lake, so intimately locked in the embrace of untouched forest, to public usage would be to ravage its beauty forever, denude the area of its dignity and create a resort pond of noise, pollution, and confusion—and, domino-like, the white pine and cedar forests above it would fall to the loggers axe, and the tourist's hatchet.

Time is fast running out for part of American's "geography of hope"—the wilderness. As I hike and pack into the forests, I am appalled at the loss of our natural resources which only 3 or 4 years ago seemed remote and untouchable—overlogged, overmined, overgrazed, overpopulated, and overpolluted. A land lying in arid, irre-

visible, sterile death and my silent fears scream to be heard: That man must now, today, this instant, put forever aside the few remaining untouched wild areas throughout this Nation if he is to preserve his heritage, to allow his children to know America through their own experiences, rather than through ballads and folk stories in history books, to be able to partake of the therapeutic values of the wilderness experience.

Upper Priest Lake is unique in that it not only fulfills the esthetic values needed by all society, but also provides a wilderness experience for people whose physical condition does not permit of hiking or packing into primitive areas, thereby becoming of double value: a small deposit owed our children's trust fund. This generation is the last that can preserve an adequate natural heritage for the future.

Walt Whitman said it over 100 years ago:

Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons,
It is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth.

Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Doctor, that is an unusually fine statement presented from a different viewpoint. This is an additional viewpoint, and time is running out. I commend you for the paper rather brilliantly done. Senator Church?

Senator CHURCH. I think you have put in clinical terms the body politic, and you have done a most moving and persuasive job of it. You had a few words in there, incidentally, I am not sure what they mean, but I am going to get out my medical dictionary. But to a layman, it sounds mighty good.

Senator BIBLE. Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. You have added a touch of rhetoric. I have only one question for you. You wouldn't object to an exchange being worked out if a basis could be found, for this jewel we all like so well?

Dr. HUBBARD. No.

Senator BIBLE. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. No questions.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness will be Mr. O. J. Buxton of the Idaho State Land Commission.

Mr. Buxton.

STATEMENT OF O. J. BUXTON, LAND COMMISSIONER, STATE OF IDAHO

Mr. BUXTON. Senator Bible and congressional delegates and friends, my name is O. J. Buxton. I am land commissioner for the State of Idaho, and also secretary of the State land board.

I have my prepared statement here for the use of your records, and I also would like to inject a few things. The State land board wants to give you their fullest support to any movement that might keep this area in public ownership in the future.

Being a State land commissioner, it is my duty to manage and take care of State endowment lands and funds. Therefore the State of Idaho is vitally concerned in this area because this particular area is largely owned by the State of Idaho—the east shore of the entire Priest Lake. I might say that—

Senator BIBLE. Could you give me the acreage in State ownership? What is the State ownership of the Upper Priest Lake area?

Mr. BUXTON. There is almost an unbroken area of 192,000 acres in this area of Upper Priest Lake.

Senator BIBLE. But you are not proposing that amount go into the national forest?

Mr. BUXTON. That is what I manage for the State of Idaho for our endowment fund.

Senator BIBLE. I understand. Maybe I didn't make myself clear. How much land or water or both does the State of Idaho own in this Upper Priest Lake area, the area we are talking about here, sir?

Mr. BUXTON. Approximately 192,000 acres in this one unbroken area. The State of Idaho owns the river and has jurisdiction up to the riparian part of the lakeshore, and we control riparian grounds on all rivers and lakes in Idaho.

Senator BIBLE. Maybe I am not stating my question correctly.

Senator CHURCH. I think there is a little confusion. The only land this bill would authorize for Federal purchase is the private lands, none of the State lands are affected by this legislation, and about—well, a very sizable tract of land around the lake is owned by the State, and the balance by the Federal Government, except just these three private parcels of inholdings with which this legislation deals. If we were to acquire these private tracts, the State government assures us, through the land board, and the Governor, that the State would cooperate with the Federal Government to continue to preserve the virgin qualities of the lake so that it would be a cooperative effort on the part of the State government and the Federal Government to secure this objective. It might be possible in the future, for efficient land management, that the State and Federal Government might then exchange parcels to obtain one management over a tract having continuity, and that would be one of the things that could be looked into, once the private holdings are acquired.

Senator BIBLE. I understand that, but I am still not clear on how much State land there is in this area which is involved in this particular proposal. How much of the shoreline is it? You are certainly not talking about 192,000 acres on Upper Priest Lake?

Mr. BUXTON. It is in the Upper Panhandle of Idaho, I would say—

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE. Yes, the entire east shore, with the exception of these three parcels.

Senator BIBLE. How much is that in acreage?

Mr. BUXTON. The area involved in the Upper Priest Lake is all of the land contiguous with the Upper Priest Lake with the exception of the three parcels of land. This is 3 miles long. Upper Priest Lake is 3 miles long. We own all of the east shore, with the exception of this 400 acres.

Senator BIBLE. Is the acreage figure 192,000?

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE. It is about 2,000 acres.

Senator BIBLE. It seemed to me it wasn't that large. I am not questioning your statement as 100 percent correct, but I was trying to narrow it down to the amount in Upper Priest Lake, whether Federal or private ownership.

Mr. SAMUELSON. Maybe I can clarify this a little bit. The thoroughfare is about 2 miles long and Priest Lake is about 20 miles long. All the land on the east side, 190,000 acres, is one big chunk, and this area at the Upper Priest Lake, clear to the top of the mountain, just about all of it, is State land, from the lake clear up to the river on the other side, to Priest River.

VOICE FROM THE AUDIENCE. Mr. Chairman—

Senator BIBLE. Yes, I will be very happy to hear you as soon as I finish with this witness here. I am glad to have the record clarified. It wasn't clear to me.

Now, did you have further observations, Mr. Buxton?

Mr. BUXTON. The park division is a division under the land management, and they work very closely with it. We have park areas and parking on Priest Lake, and we have provided parking areas within very short distances of the thoroughfare and Upper Priest Lake for future development. When we talk about land exchange and State forest roads, House bill 166 permitted the State of Idaho to exchange lands with the Federal Government, and that was passed in the last session. We did not attempt to include in this bill private holdings, but this session of the legislature we expect to introduce a bill and husband that through the legislature wherein we might exchange land with private individuals. Now in June of this year the majority members of the land board directed me to do what we could to effect land exchanges on Priest Lake, but we cannot deal yet with private individuals. We have some land that we may explore where the private individuals could exchange land with the Federal Government, and then we could exchange land with the Federal Government. We did something similar to that on the Dworshak Pool area. We exchanged 9,000 acres with the Bureau of Land Management, and after that was almost completed, I would say that the papers are headed for my office to complete the exchange for 9,000 acres of the pool area. About the time that was completed then, Farragut came into the picture. The board asked me if we could skim off enough acreage in what we were receiving from the Dworshak Pool area to pay for the amount of acreage we would receive from the Farragut exchange. So it took approximately 930 acres from the land we received from the Dworshak project to pay for the land we will now receive from Farragut. In this particular area we have an anticipated sale. October 27 we will sell land at public auction at Sandpoint. At our campground on Lower Priest Lake we had approximately 25,000 people use that park 1 day this summer.

Senator BIBLE. What do you consider your season here, about June 1 to September 1?

Mr. BUXTON. Labor Day is the day it usually breaks off. That is, most of our people stop using our parks, with the exception of hunters and that type of people, and it starts when the weather warms up enough in the spring to get out and really start camping.

Another comment I would like to make is that this land board, and most of the previous land boards, are reserving all lake shores and river banks and all that for future access and for public access. We are not anticipating ever selling any of that particular ground, or leasing it, so that the public is excluded from those areas.

Senator BIBLE. Very fine, Mr. Buxton. I certainly appreciate your statement. Senator Church?

Senator CHURCH. This would mean, if I understood your last statement correctly, if the Federal Government acquired the private holdings on Upper Priest, that the Federal Government could be assured the State would administer its lands in such a way as to preserve the wilderness character of these shores?

Mr. BUXTON. Right. I might say that just recently region 4 and region 3 of the Forest Service met in my office and we set up the plans for exchanges and our negotiations are very compatible. We have now set up the machinery where we will proceed to make land exchanges on our intermingled lands.

Senator CHURCH. This is a great breakthrough, Mr. Chairman. It is the first time in my knowledge the State and Federal Governments have been able to negotiate the exchanges to the mutual advantages of both.

Mr. BUXTON. It was never possible before, but when I became land commissioner, about 18 years ago, when I was in the legislature, I did not want to lose endowment acreages to condemnation or any other measure, to lose the basis of our endowment funds. So I had asked the board if they would back me up if I would explore land exchanges. The legislative house bill gave authority to do it, and since that time we have concentrated our efforts on exchanges on the pool area.

Senator BIBLE. Very fine.

Senator JORDAN. I want to take the opportunity to commend Mr. Buxton as a man knowledgeable in land matters. He served in the senate when I was in the legislature, and when I was Governor I had a high regard for his knowledge of land use and property.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you. Congressman White?

Congressman WHITE. One clarification I would like to have, and perhaps the author of the bill might help me in this matter. If the land is included into the Forest Service, will the boundary be identified to include the State land or will these be isolated tracts intermingled with the State lands as national forest property?

Senator CHURCH. I think I can answer that question. Would you like to answer it Mr. Buxton?

Mr. BUXTON. Go ahead.

Senator CHURCH. The bill would only include the private holdings. That is all that would be added to the Kaniksu National Forest.

Mr. BUXTON. Right.

Senator CHURCH. Afterward, the Federal Government might want to explore the possibility of exchanges, but the bill itself would not affect the State lands.

Mr. BUXTON. I might say this, before the land exchange progressed we started at the pool area and worked north. We did have some isolated sections on the east shore and back from the shore of Priest Lake that we have negotiated, but we accomplished our program for the land exchange before we extended our holdings this far, our negotiations.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mr. Buxton. Your prepared statement will be printed at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

PREPARED STATEMENT OF O. J. BUXTON, STATE LAND COMMISSIONER, IDAHO

My name is O. J. Buxton. I am the State land commissioner for the State of Idaho. I wish to offer the full support of the State board of land commissioners for the establishment of and the maintenance of the Upper Priest Lake Primitive Area in Bonner County, Idaho.

There are several reasons why we would urge the Congress of the United States to set aside this virgin area to preserve and protect it for future generations to see and enjoy. Due to the large State ownership in this area, we are deeply concerned with the possibility of this scenic wonderland slipping into the ever-widening world of human encroachment. We would cooperate with the Federal Government should they acquire these lands now under consideration, to the extent allowed by Idaho laws in the establishment of this primitive area.

Priest Lake has been nationally acclaimed for its fishing and its natural beauty as well as its camping and varied recreational opportunities. Upper Priest Lake preserved in its primitive state will provide a scenic attraction to the area and an opportunity for those people who seek the facilities both public and private marinas, campgrounds, motels, etc., found on both sides of the lower lake.

I feel that the establishment of such an area will greatly enhance the economy of the region. We have the major portion of this Upper Priest Lake wonderland in the State ownership and reserve as a primitive area, and we need your assistance to preserve the remaining portion.

Senator BIBLE. There was a gentleman down here who raised his hand. I didn't mean to cut him off. I am very happy to record whatever he would like to say, sir.

Would you like to come forward?

Mr. FENIMORE CADY. I am a bit crippled.

Senator BIBLE. Speak loud and state your name for the record.

STATEMENT OF FENIMORE CADY, COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

Mr. CADY. Senator Bible and members of the committee, I am not prepared—

Senator BIBLE. Would you identify yourself first?

Mr. CADY. My name is Fenimore Cady. I am the president of the Priest Lake State Lessee's Association.

Senator BIBLE. Very good. And you live where? At Sandpoint, sir?

Mr. CADY. I live at Coeur d'Alene.

Senator BIBLE. All right.

Mr. CADY. It was not my intention to be interviewed at this time because I have problems of my own.

Senator BIBLE. The only reason I called on you is because you raised your hand, and if you want to say something I am happy to recognize you.

Mr. CADY. I think you have left out a consideration, one element here, because starting down at the mouth, the outlet of Coolin, on the east shore, every 150 feet there is a cabin approximately. Now, that runs up to the mouth of the Thoroughfare. We are under the jurisdiction of Mr. Buxton, the land commissioner, and if I can say anything at this time I think those people and I intend to write this

for the record, and not take up your time unnecessarily, but we should be represented.

Senator BIBLE. We are very happy to have them indicate anything they desire, sir. As I said, the record will be open for 30 days, so if anyone wishes to send in a statement they may. You are speaking, I presume, about some of the people who are lessees on the east side of the lake. If they want to entertain their sentiments on this proposal, one way or the other, the record will be kept open and I want you to inform them that they can do it. I am happy to have them do it and very happy to have you say what you want to say.

Mr. CADY. I think it is better for your committee that this be put in writing.

Senator BIBLE. Whatever way you prefer.

Mr. CADY. There isn't anything that might develop fears more than the word "condemnation."

Senator BIBLE. It has been expressed to us many times and we are very happy, if you indicate you want to put it in writing.

Mr. CADY. I think if there is consideration given to that fact, that you will want to hear more from this group who represent practically the entire length of the east shoreline.

Senator BIBLE. I hope I made it clear that this is always one of the difficult problems in proposals such as this, and I think the Members of Congress here made it very clear about our feelings about condemnation and the hope that it will work out on a voluntary sale basis or an exchange basis. If you or any other people have suggestions to make, we will be happy to have them reduced to writing, and we will be happy to receive your remarks and the record will be open 30 days for that purpose.

Mr. CADY. I first came up to Priest Lake, at Onion Creek, in 1919. I just want to put this in, in passing, that at that time we shared a cup of coffee with Jim Lowe, and he happens to be here right now, but I think that if it is all right with you, we will get it in in writing.

Senator BIBLE. That is entirely satisfactory, and that is why we have the hearing so that we can get all of the views.

At this time we will stand adjourned until 1:30.

(Whereupon the hearing was recessed until 1:30 p.m.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Senator BIBLE. The hearing will resume. Those of you who are standing up, will you please come in and be seated and make yourselves comfortable.

I want the record to show, and underscore it, that that is one of the best lunches I have had in a long time, and I am certain everyone participating agrees with me. [Applause.]

If the cooks want a resolution to that effect, we will see that they get it.

We appear to be weathered in, flyingwise, and we are due at Lewiston later this evening, but I am sure we have adequate time.

Our first witness this afternoon is Mrs. Eileen Gumaer.

STATEMENT OF MRS. EILEEN GUMAER, SPOKANE, WASH.

Mrs. GUMAER. My address is Spokane, Wash. We are landowners. For the record, I would like to have two questions answered.

The first one, I would like to have you gentlemen define for me the word "primitive."

Senator BIBLE. Well, now, without my trying to handle that, just in responding to you right now, I think I can develop that when we call the Forest Service witness. I intend asking them, and developing for the record, the plan of development they have in mind, should we secure this land under the proposal now before us. I would rather have the Forest Service, which is charged with the responsibility of administering the area, define the word "primitive." I think it is a perfectly proper question. They will tell you exactly what their plans are for this area insofar as the land under their jurisdiction.

Mrs. GUMAER. I hoped you would define it for me.

My definition of primitive has always been something as we consider the primitive area of the south-central part of Idaho, as a place not accessible by modern travel, and my understanding at the moment of the property at Upper Priest Lake is that there is a local highway going in up there and I am wondering what bearing that will have on the property, how you can call it primitive?

Senator BIBLE. Well, again, in response to your question, I will not attempt to answer it for the Forest Service, but I am going to specifically ask their representative the very question you asked. I fully intend going into that, because I think the people living in this area and people in this Upper Priest Lake area are entitled to know, without using the word "primitive" or a particular definition, I think they are entitled to know what type of development, whether it is roads, campsites, picnic facilities, or whatever it is exactly they intend doing. I hope to develop that through the Forest Service.

Mrs. GUMAER. Thank you.

My other thought is, we have understood by the acquiring of this land it is going to be for the good of all of the people. How, then, can you say for the good of the most when the land is not accessible there at the present time, only by those few people who have the money to have boats and proper motor equipment to get up there, whether it is by pontoon plane or by boat. I am sure anyone who has been up there is well aware those are the only two ways at the moment, unless this highway, that is approximately 3 miles at the head there, will connect down in there, and if that happens, then it is no longer, it would seem, primitive. At least it would not be my definition of the word "primitive."

Senator BIBLE. Again, I think a lot of that, or a great part, will be answered through the Forest Service, or I will let Senator Church or Senator Jordan comment on it. We find this inherent when we work in other areas, and it is true in our big park systems and primitive areas that we have areas highly inaccessible. Many people say, "if you make them this inaccessible, how can people go there?" That is the purpose of creating some of these areas that are difficult to reach. In our vast network of parks and primitive areas we have areas which border on the Canadian border which are very attractive but yet are difficult to get to. You have to take a boat to get there, or the plane

goes in just very infrequently, but this is another type of area that isn't being opened up for everyone. I mean by having all of America go in. I think there is room in our system of parks and recreational facilities and scenic areas, to try to accommodate various and differing needs, and it is true some of these areas aren't open to everybody, and this is exactly the way a lot of people want it.

Mrs. GUMEAR. But that is not what the bill has said. It says it is for the good of the people. This is the good of the whole, not a part of those people who are financially able to go in there and make use of this area.

Senator BIBLE. Well, I think it is still a question of preservation, of judgment of what kind of area you develop, and some people will say it should have a high-speed road in it so everybody can get there.

This is probably very similar to one we have on Padre Island, down in the area of Corpus Christi, and Brownsville, in the Gulf of Mexico. Many people wanted to put a wide road down the center of it, so you could open it up to many people, but the committee, in its judgment, thought it was better to protect it and make it a little more difficult to get into. We had exactly the same problem on Fire Island, where one philosophy was advanced that you ought to build a high density road right through the center of this island so everybody in New York City, an area of some 10 or 12 million people, could get in, and go roaring down the island. Other people said, this is the reason why we were trying to get away from the New York area, where we don't see an automobile. You can't get on Fire Island except by what they call a lakemobile, something like that, and sand buggies that go up on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. We created this island within 150 miles of some 12 millions of people, a great number of whom express a desire to have a place which wouldn't be too accessible. You see, we develop different concepts of this as we go along.

Mrs. GUMEAR. I would like to say this about the land I am speaking about. This land was not acquired as land—well, as the lower end of the lake was acquired—for development. That land I am speaking about is my husband's home, so you can see we have just a little different feeling about it than many people do. My husband and I are native Idahoans, but at the present time we are not living in Idaho. But I can say with the utmost sincerity that Idaho is his one love. We always tease him that Idaho comes first, as far as he is concerned. That is why I question the use of this land in the term of its being primitive, and also whether it is accessible, and for the good of the whole.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. I surely do appreciate your testimony and this is the type of thing that we are here to develop. Would you indicate to me for the record what the land holdings are that you talk about, your own land holdings? Is it something in the size of 50 acres or so?

Mrs. GUMEAR. It is about 240 acres.

Senator BIBLE. I am not trying to embarrass anybody. This is the type of thing we could go into at the county recorder's office.

Mrs. GUMEAR. As a matter of fact, his home still stands there, and one of our honorable gentlemen the other evening just got my ire up when he said the cabin is about to fall in the lake. Frankly, I am tired of hearing people say your property is about to disintegrate.

Senator BIBLE. Those are some of the things we have to work out here. Senator Church might have some observations.

Senator CHURCH. I concur with the chairman that certainly our purpose is to hear everybody, including the property owners. They have a great deal at stake here. I think from the Forest Service we should get on the record exactly what their plans are. If Congress goes ahead on the basis of this testimony, and assuming this land is purchased, we certainly don't want them to find that the Forest Service is developing the lakeshore in some way that is in conflict with the very objective of this legislation. I should think that building a road in or beginning to develop the shoreline would be the very opposite of what we are trying to accomplish here, so I think we had better find out from the Forest Service definitely what their intention would be in administering the land involved here. I think that the testimony of the gentleman from the Forest Service will bring that out before the conclusion of the hearing.

Senator BIBLE. That is why we are purposely calling on him last.

Senator CHURCH. I might say that when I came in this morning, J. Milo Allen said, "I have got something for you, Senator," and he handed to me—I thought it was a letter in which he was reading the riot act to me, and I was going to read it later, but I opened it up and I am glad he is in favor of keeping Upper Priest Lake, preserving it as a natural area, and endorsing the bill. I would like to include that in the record.

Also, there is a letter to me from Perl Smith's Resort in favor of the bill and also one from Glen Mank by Bob Niemann, speaking for the members of the Spokane Outboard Club, in favor of the bill.

And finally a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Niemann, asking that their names also be listed in favor of keeping Upper Priest Lake in its primitive state.

Senator BIBLE. Very fine. Those letters may be made a part of the record.

(The communications referred to follow:)

PRIEST RIVER, IDAHO, October 8, 1964.

Senator FRANK CHURCH,
Hill's Resort, Priest River, Idaho.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: I am in favor of keeping Upper Priest Lake preserved as a natural area, and purchasing the necessary privately owned land to accomplish this purpose.

Sincerely,

J. MILO ALLEN.

PERL SMITH'S RESORT,
Nordman, Idaho, October 7, 1964.

Senator FRANK CHURCH,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: I am in favor of the U.S. Forest Service purchasing the privately owned property on Upper Priest Lake so that the lake can be maintained in its natural state for the thousands of tourists and campers who visit it each year.

There are very few lakes so easily accessible by boat that have not been over-commercialized, and it would be a shame to ruin the beauty of the Upper Priest Lake.

Sincerely,

PERL E. SMITH.

OCTOBER 8, 1964.

Senator FRANK CHURCH,
State House, Boise, Idaho.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: We, the members of the Spokane Outboard Club of Spokane, Wash., would like to have our names listed as in favor of keeping Upper Priest Lake in its primitive state.

Sincerely,

Glen Mank, *Commodore.*
(By) BOB NIEMAN.

PRIEST LAKE MARINA,
Priest River, Idaho, October 8, 1964.

Senator FRANK CHURCH,
State House, Boise, Idaho.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: We would like to have our names listed as in favor of keeping Upper Priest Lake in its primitive state.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT NIEMAN.

Senator BIBLE. Are there further questions?

Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. Let's see if some of this doesn't fall in place through colloquy today.

Senator BIBLE. Very fine. We are going to hear from the county assessor. Is he here? I don't know that you are prepared to respond to the questions I might ask, but I think that if you were here this morning you will know what I am interested in developing for the record.

STATEMENT OF FORREST WETTEROW, COUNTY ASSESSOR, BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO

Mr. WETTEROW. Anybody attending one of these meetings should be prepared for something.

I am Forrest Wetterow, county assessor at Sandpoint.

Senator BIBLE. Very fine. As I understand it, there are three parcels of land in this area, and I would be interested in knowing the ownership of the three parcels, the acreage of the three parcels, how long they have been in that particular ownership? That would be more or less a question, I suppose, for the county, but what assessed value do you have on it?

Mr. WETTEROW. We have sections 18, 19, and 20—some of 24. Three parcels in section 33, and that does not include the land that is owned by the Northern Pacific Railroad. They have land that lays up on the side hill above the lake in section 8. Sections 18, 19, 20, and 14—that land belongs to Mrs. Gumear and I believe her sister-in-law, Mrs. Burwell. We have some Geisingers, some by the name of Auberg, some by the name of Dr. Peterson, and some in some Northern Pacific land; and section 18, I did not write the acreage down. It carried an assessed valuation of \$50. Section 20, \$135; section 24, \$305; and section 23, farther down the lake, \$150. That is Geisinger's property Auberg's, \$325, and, Dr. Peterson's, \$815. That carries an assessed valuation of \$2,220. At the county ratio, this area, at \$8.11, that would bring in some \$180 to the county on taxes.

Senator BIBLE. May I ask this question? The lady brought up the point. We recognize that before the land is developed and has other

uses, sometimes it isn't assessed as high as land with a higher use. The report from the Department of Agriculture indicates we are talking about 417 acres. Now, I don't know if the acreage to which you testified—is that approximately 417 acres?

Mr. WETTEROW. Approximately 400 acres.

Senator BIBLE. We are talking about the same property?

Mr. WETTEROW. We are talking about the same property.

Senator BIBLE. I wanted to be sure. The valuation you testified to has a total tax return as you have testified?

Mr. WETTEROW. That is right, that is the total tax return on the land assessed today as cutover timberland. The potential of that land is tremendous. We have no idea what amount of tax that will bring in when our lake shore reevaluation proposal is completed, probably somewhere between three and four thousand dollars.

Senator BIBLE. Is this second growth, or what growth timber?

Mr. WETTEROW. Mostly second growth, probably never been logged, some of it, but very little that would be merchantable down near the lake. My concern is the valuation. We do not set a tax in the assessor's office. That is set by the county commissioners, depending on the amount of service your people require. The value on the property will increase when our program is completed. It will be—each foot on the lake will be assessed as lakeshore property.

Senator BIBLE. In the first instance, the assessor in Bonner County does not have to make an assessment?

Mr. WETTEROW. He never puts a tax on any land.

Senator BIBLE. He makes his assessment on the value.

Mr. WETTEROW. Only on the value.

Senator BIBLE. The way I originally understood that, I thought you might have a good job. Now I see you do the same thing here they do to me down in Nevada. I don't know that it is any better than being a Senator. But I know, when you put an assessment, you cause problems. But you do put the value on.

Senator CHURCH. The total tax is \$108 a year?

Mr. WETTEROW. No; \$180 a year.

Senator CHURCH. Do you know what the Forest Service pays in to the county on timber sales, or net returns on sales of timber?

Mr. WETTEROW. I think this last year it was about \$63,000, give or take.

Senator CHURCH. \$63,000 amount?

Mr. WETTEROW. Yes; total payments.

Senator BIBLE. Senator Jordan, do you have any questions?

Senator JORDAN. I am not sure I followed you. Do I understand you are going to set up a new set of criteria for assessing the value of this kind of property?

Mr. WETTEROW. Yes; we have set it up.

Senator JORDAN. And you calculate the tax revenue will increase from \$180, I believe you said, to between three and four thousand dollars?

Mr. WETTEROW. I would say about \$3,000; yes.

Senator JORDAN. For the same land without any further improvement by the owner?

Mr. WETTEROW. Yes.

Senator JORDAN. Just by adopting a different set of criteria for assessing the determined value?

Mr. WETTEROW. Yes.

Senator JORDAN. That is all.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you for coming by and helping building a complete record.

Next I am going to call on the man from the Forest Service. Mr. Neal Rahm, and I would ask him to indicate whoever he would like to have with him. You may want to have the supervisor of this national forest with you, but I will leave that up to you. You are the boss man.

First, I would like to have you identify yourself.

STATEMENT OF NEAL RAHM, REGIONAL FORESTER, NORTHERN REGION, U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Mr. RAHM. My name is Neal Rahm, regional forester for the northern region with headquarters at Missoula. The northern region includes this area.

Now, I don't have a prepared statement but I am quite willing to be helpful in answering any question, any kind of questions, I can. But since I am here, I would like to make some preliminary comments.

Senator BIBLE. Surely.

Mr. RAHM. Now first, I think it has been brought up the genesis of this acquisition of these lands, starting with the people. It is properly so. With the State, with the people in the area, and also people out of the area. We have tried very hard to be helpful in any way we can.

Next, the philosophy of these near-natural areas, wilderness areas, primitive areas. In the Forest Service we are strongly for them. We feel they are very precious and we started in 1920 with none of these areas and we now have within the Service, 15½ million acres of classified land. This includes wilderness areas, scenic areas, historic areas. Some of these are rather small, less than 5,000 acres, but we feel that they are very precious because they need to be classified now before we lose them.

I believe I should comment briefly on the exchange. This has been brought up several times. Now, in the first place, we are authorized to make exchanges under two acts. One is the general exchange law and the other is the Weeks law. Also, our policy is that we will not exchange away land or shores of lakes because we have been directed not to do so by the Outdoor Recreational Resources Committee, because they feel these areas are very precious. The Government agencies and the Park Service should be acquiring them before they are lost. However, we do have latitude to exchange with private landowners, and we do so. Exchanges are not simple at all. It takes a long time. I made an analysis a couple of years ago of how long it took to make an exchange, and these are for all of the national forest regions in the United States. Actually, the shortest period was 2½ years. And they ranged from 5 to 10 years. The objective of my analysis, or the analysis I made, was to see what we could do to speed up action. There were so many variables and so many reasons, it is difficult to put your finger on them. In many cases, about the time you are ready to consummate an exchange, you find someone dies and you have to start over again. Title difficulties. We have to go through the general counsel's office. It just takes a long time. In many instances, after an extended period of time, we find values have changed, circumstances have

changed. We have to do it all over again. So it is nothing that we can do very rapidly. This is one of the reasons we have suggested we pursue the acquisition through the land and water conservation fund. We would like to comment briefly on the condemnation.

"Condemnation" is a bad word. Now, as far as acquiring lands like this, we have authority to do so. The Weeks law provided it. But to my knowledge we have never exercised it to acquire land on these kinds of lakes. Land in the Great Lakes States, the boundary water areas, we did. This was directed by Congress. We were directed to do so by Congress. We were directed to do so, and we have condemned and we do so many times to clear title. And under the Weeks law, many individuals and large companies, even though we have an opportunity to negotiate, many individuals won't negotiate and this is for tax purposes. I understand that in a condemnation case, that as far as their capital gain, they escape taxation if they invest the money in land in a year or some such specified period. We have had them, but they are in the nature of friendly condemnations.

Personally, I would be very reluctant to move into a condemnation until it had full support of the congressional delegation, and I would be quite sure it was for the public interest to do this. All of these lands we have in Government ownership around this lake are incorporated in the recreation plan we have now and are going to be programed for access to public beaches, picnic areas, and campgrounds. This is all set up in the recreation plan. It is very important. These are lands which will be needed one of these days for public recreation. In the area of which we speak, the Little Priest Lake, we have about 2,000 acres in there now of State lands and then we have private lands. We use the term "near-natural" area. This is a tool word.

Senator BIBLE. It is what?

Mr. RAHM. It is a tool word. We classify our land for these purposes near-natural areas, as wilderness, wild areas. As I said before, scenic areas, geologic areas. This is the technical way we set the areas apart for the purpose of our talks, but it means we are going to have a simple type of development, although permitted to road them, we plan no roads. We do have some campgrounds in through there now, because we are forced to do so. People went up and they camped and we put in facilities for sanitation purposes.

Senator BIBLE. At that point, would you visualize overnight camping in this area? This is the question we are constantly asked.

Mr. RAHM. I visualize overnight camping. We have it already in some of these areas. People come and camp. We also visualize picnic areas where they come in by boat. We put in sanitation facilities. We have nature trails, but that will probably be the extent of our development, because we don't want to invite, for instance, large numbers of people into an area by putting in roads because it dissipates the very quality for which the area is set up. We will have to make note in some future time, maybe 15 years hence, or whenever the time is, that there are too many people coming in on overnight camping, and it could be that we will have to limit it to 2-day use. We do this quite often in our campgrounds. In many areas we have had unlimited time periods and people camp as long as they wish, but we might have to have limited periods on them, maybe a week or

10 days, to give more people an opportunity to use the areas. Other times we reduce them to maybe 5 days. In other instances, close to metropolitan areas, we will convert it to picnic use only. This has been done where there used to be campgrounds, and now they have changed them to picnicking grounds. This is to give people an opportunity to enjoy the area.

Now if there are any questions—

Senator BIBLE. Might I ask a question? I think you have covered the general area fairly well. We want everybody to understand what you have in mind in the years ahead. I realize you can't speak for 15 or 25 years ahead, but reference was made by Mrs. Gumaer to the fact that some road or highway was to be built up there. What would that do to your concept, if it was built? I don't know how close it would be.

Mr. RAHM. To my knowledge we have no plan for any highway or any roads. I might refer this question to Supervisor Beebe.

Mr. BEEBE. You are correct, Neal. The road might be the Stagger Road, but the closest it would approach the upper lake is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Senator BIBLE. Assume it is built as a two-lane or a four-lane paved highway, there is no plan on the part of the Forest Service in connecting this to Upper Priest?

Senator JORDAN. I am familiar with the canoe area. I have been up there. You do not permit hydroplanes in the area or motorboats. It is a canoe area. Had you any idea of a restricted access to upper Priest as drastic as that?

Mr. RAHM. Very frankly, as to the question of what the plans are, it is difficult to answer this. At this stage of the planning and development, we have made no specific plans for this area. To answer your question, I don't believe we would have any prohibition as far as the use of the lake. Maybe we would. I haven't given it a thought, but at this time, the preliminary phase of extending the boundary, and talking in terms of acquiring the area, we haven't made any detailed plans.

Senator CHURCH. This area, the land you now hold, is recognized forest land, it is not under any special primitive or wilderness designation which excludes the use of the motorboats and that sort of thing, is that right?

Mr. RAHM. Correct. I believe we have about 2,000 acres in the area.

Senator CHURCH. The Forest Service would be mindful of the legislative history, in what the intent was in acquiring it?

Mr. RAHM. Yes; it would be classified under one area as possibly a scenic area.

Senator BIBLE. I think Mrs. Gumaer has a question. If you will ask me, I will ask him. I don't want to subject him to questions from everybody.

Mrs. GUMAER. Perhaps the gentleman could tell me who has built the concrete, two-lane bridge up there?

Senator BIBLE. I don't know if he can or can't. Mr. Beebe, who built the concrete bridge up there?

Mr. BEEBE. It is part of the Stagger Road. It is way north of Priest Lake. The closest it comes, about 3½ miles.

Senator CHURCH. Is that the one that will connect with the Canadian highway?

Mr. BEEBE. It will continue to go north.

Senator BIBLE. From there it would be accessible to get into the property, below, wouldn't it?

Mr. BEEBE. You would have to have 3½ miles of road. This is not planned, at least by us.

Senator BIBLE. Do you have anything further you wanted to observe?

Mr. RAHM. Yes; I had one more thought. I am sort of talking off the cuff here.

Senator BIBLE. You are doing very well, perhaps better than if you had a prepared statement.

Mr. RAHM. Of course, we are always interested in options. I think the sentiment is pretty much the same, the question is, How are you going to do it? It boils down to that. It has been brought out, I believe, this morning, that there is a possibility in this land and water conservation fund that the State could acquire it, too. That is another option. Then from the aspect of the exchange, if the legislature in the State here, when they can exchange with individuals, their procedure wouldn't be as complicated and painful as ours. This is another option that could be exercised. So I don't believe we should confine our thinking and our opportunities to the Federal Government doing this necessarily. We are very glad to do it. We would be very helpful to you from here on out in any way we can. I don't believe we should close our eyes to the other funds. The State might do it and it would be desirable.

Senator JORDAN. I am glad to hear Mr. Rahm say that because I think there is a possibility in this, too. I am glad to hear you say that, even though you may now have condemnation powers, the only time you have exercised them was in the canoe area in the Lake Superior area except at the wish of the people who wished to be condemned for their own good.

Mr. RAHM. Yes. Of course condemnation there was under the 1936 act. It was a special enactment of Congress.

Senator JORDAN. I worked on that. I know about that.

Senator CHURCH. I think that helps to settle a lot of fears that might otherwise be aroused by this. It is also noteworthy that Secretary Freeman, when he testified on the Land and Water Conservation Fund bill, also indicated he took the same view of condemnation, that every effort should first be exercised to acquire the land through negotiation and through sale.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. Are there further questions? Senator Jordan?

Senator JORDAN. No.

Senator BIBLE. There is a gentleman here who indicated he wanted to ask a question.

Mr. WILBUR BROWN. I would like to ask a hypothetical question.

Senator BIBLE. If you would state your name and address for the record, please.

Mr. BROWN. I am Wilbur F. Brown, a resident of this area.

If this law is passed, and if this land is taken over by the Forest Service, would it have any special administrative methods? Like there is nothing to stop the Forest Service from making a public dump out of anything. It does that all the time. Would this land be administered as a remote area or would it be administered as a normal forest service area which can be changed by the administrative office in Missoula to any sort of administration?

Senator BIBLE. Mr. Rahm, I will let you answer.

Mr. RAHM. As Director of the Forest Service, I think I have pretty well answered it.

Mr. BROUN. I think so, too.

Senator BIBLE. I think you made your position pretty clear, but I am happy to have you respond.

Mr. RAHM. This is one of the reasons for the enactment of the wilderness bill. They have always brought the question up, the wilderness groups, that if the Secretary of Agriculture set up a wilderness area, we could always terminate that and knock it out. If the departmental chief set up a wild area, and this is his authority, he could eliminate it, too. Areas like this, we have authority to establish them. We are doing it in this region and in many places we are doing it, all over the South we are doing it. The fear is this, that we could at some time, or if a new administration came in, we could wash it out. But I think these fears are not grounded in fact, because in 1920 we started, as I said, with nothing in the way of near-natural areas of wilderness, and we now have many acres and it is growing every year. When we reclassify the areas from primitive areas, or reestablish the areas and change the boundaries, inevitably they increase because we sincerely believe in pursuing this course of action to establish more of them. You say, "Well, how do we know?" You have no assurance. The only assurance you have is to have a law that would mean I couldn't establish an area, it would be established by Congress, by law, the same as a wilderness area. Even then, Congress could knock them out. It would be more difficult to do it. At every level it is established at, that level itself could eliminate it, but the fact remains it hasn't been done.

Senator BIBLE. I think, too, if I might expand a point on your answer. The very report of the Secretary of Agriculture makes it abundantly clear, as he says on page 2, as part of the national forests they would be managed in conjunction with adjacent lands in the area, with boating, fishing, camping, and hunting and a near-natural environment. I think that is what he intends to straighten up.

Mr. RAHM. Then there is another fact of life here. This area is established for a period of years and say I decided to eliminate it, what chance would I have against public sentiment? We are very sensitive to Congressmen.

Senator BIBLE. I'm glad to hear of this.

Go ahead, Mr. Broun.

Mr. BROUN. It was not less than 5 or 6 years ago in which I appeared as a witness against the Forest Service building a road along the northern shore of Priest Lake and along Little Priest. It was, I think, partly because of that unofficial conference that the present road is now being built north of Little Priest and across the Priest River, as has been testified, approximately 3½ miles north of Little

Priest Lake. This is the road, though, the Forest Service is building, and it is building it to get access to the timber up there. However, once that road is built, unless there are prohibitions, there will be a hundred, or two hundred dozer roads working back toward Little Priest, working into every corner where there is marketable timber. Now, unless there is a prohibition for this, unless at some point the Forest Service or the State or some omnipotent power says, "Stop," this will continue. There is a major road now being built by the Forest Service west of Little Priest, and then it cuts north of Little Priest and connects to Porthill, in Canada.

Senator BIBLE. Well, I think the best method to allay your misgivings on this score would be in the expression of the congressional intent that would accompany this bill, were it enacted.

Mr. BROUN. I am in hopes.

Senator CHURCH. The committee will make it clear what is intended, and I think the Forest Service will abide by that expression of intent.

Mr. BROUN. You give me a No. 8 dozer, and I will take it anyplace.

Senator BIBLE. The point is well taken. We recognize you run into those problems, but when you couple the legislative intent, if the legislation moves forward, plus the statement of the Secretary of Agriculture, I think we can make it very, very clear.

Mr. RAHM. There is one aspect of the Forest Service, actually we own very little land in there. These are State lands, and I believe some arrangement would have to be made that we had the assurance of not only the adjoining lands, but the State lands, and we could work together.

Senator JORDAN. You did bring out a point under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the State will now come into money they can use for acquisition and development, or any purpose. Isn't that true?

Mr. RAHM. Correct.

Senator JORDAN. Another alternative.

Senator BIBLE. I want to voice, on behalf of our committee, the privileged time we have had here. I wish it could be much longer. I want to indicate that I am going to come back and find out about your silver salmon as well as your mackinaw and rainbow trout, but our escorting officer, Colonel Smith, indicates we have a problem with weather, and we are going to have to move first from here down to Spokane, and then on down to Lewiston. We hope we can fly part of the way.

The record, as I earlier said—I think I did make two different statements—the record will be kept open for those of you who would desire to furnish any type of statement, up to and including November 15, and I previously indicated exactly where that should be mailed.

It has been a pleasure to be in Idaho. I am hopeful we can get this problem worked out.

Senator CHURCH. Senator Bible, Marvin Vandenburg from the State public lands office wanted to include in the record a statement of the lands that the State will be putting on the tax rolls in this county, to add to the county in some auction sales going up very soon. Now, I thought we might put that in the record because it helps to counterbalance any loss accruing from the passage of this legislation.

Senator BIBLE. We are very happy to include it.

Senator CHURCH. The message reads :

Senator Bible, Senator Church, and Senator Jordan.

This is from Marvin Vandenburg, a former State representative from Bonner County, and presently with the Idaho State Land Department as a land agent.

In the Cavanaugh Bay area, across the lake approximately one-half mile from the lake, the State board of land commissioners, in anticipation of this problem of the loss of taxation to Bonner County, have caused to be set aside a subdivision of some 44 lots. This is a pilot project, the first of its kind, and if it is successful, our anticipation is that we will offer more in the future to offset the loss to the tax base of Bonner County. The first sale of these lots will be held October 27 in Sandpoint. We felt that there probably would be a need of a development of this type to take care of loss of revenues to the county, and, therefore, the board of land commissioners have caused to have this action taken.

Senator BIBLE. I think that is very commendable.

Senator CHURCH. I want to say, Mr. Chairman, once again how grateful we are to you for coming and handling this meeting in such a gracious and expeditious way, and to thank all of the people who came, too. I think we ought to give Senator Bible a good hand.
[Applause.]

Senator BIBLE. I have enjoyed being here, and only wish I could stay longer. I want to thank the Hills. They have made the room available to us and we may be back here.

We will stand at recess. You have until November 15 to file any further statements that you have.

Thank you very much.

(Whereupon at about 3 p.m. the committee recessed, subject to the call of the Chair.)

CHAPTER I

The first part of the history of the United States is the history of the colonies. The colonies were first settled by Englishmen in 1607. They were at first dependent on England for their supplies and protection. But as the colonies grew in number and in size, they began to assert their independence. They demanded the right to elect their own representatives to a local assembly. They demanded the right to trade with whom they pleased. They demanded the right to be taxed only by their own representatives. These demands were at first ignored by the British government. But when the colonies refused to pay the taxes imposed by the British parliament, the British government sent an expedition to force the colonies to pay. This led to the American Revolution. The colonies declared their independence in 1776. They fought a war with Great Britain and won. In 1787 they adopted a constitution which provided for a federal government. This was the beginning of the United States of America.

APPENDIX

(Under authority previously given the following letters were ordered printed in the hearing record:)

STATE OF IDAHO,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Boise, October 8, 1964.

Senator LEN B. JORDAN,
Boise, Idaho.

DEAR LEN: The Senate Public Lands Subcommittee is to be congratulated for their efforts to obtain the facts about Upper Priest Lake as a recreation area. Preserving Upper Priest and the Thoroughfare for the public's use in the future will benefit more people in the next decade than all the millions of acres in the so-called Wilderness Area.

The access to Upper Priest by boat makes it a primitive area that can be used by people with modest means. Whereas the larger areas are accessible only to those who can afford to hire or own pack strings.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD SNOW.

FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS,
Eugene, Oreg., October 8, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Interior Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I have been informed that your subcommittee is holding a public hearing on S. 3067 on land acquisition on Upper Priest Lake, Idaho, at Hills Resort at Priest Lake on October 8. As I am unable to be there in person, I respectfully request that the following resolving expressing the position of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs be entered into the record.

Upper Priest Lake in the northern Idaho panhandle is the one remaining large lake in Idaho accessible only by boat and foot. The scenic setting and wildlife habitat of this unique area should be preserved: It is, therefore

Resolved, That the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges that all of the land around Upper Priest Lake be put in public ownership and that it be maintained in natural condition, with access to the lake by boat and trail only. In this connection it endorses S. 3067, to acquire private inholdings which are now in danger of being subdivided, and it urges that suitable landscape management areas away from the lake be maintained in zones which are viewable.

Adopted at Camp Bosco, Wash., September 7, 1964.

Sincerely,

J. MICHAEL McCLOSKEY,
Northeast Conservation Representative.

THE SPOKANE COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Spokane, Wash., October 8, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The Spokane County Sportsmen's Association, Inc., has endorsed the proposal of the U.S. Forest Service to acquire the three remaining parcels of private land around Upper Priest Lake, and make it a part of the Kaniksu National Forest.

Such a proposal will keep this very scenic area in its present natural state, and it will also be a step toward the conservation of a very fine area.

We hope that you will exert every effort to get this bill passed so that funds may be made available for the project.

Please make this letter a part of the Upper Priest Lake hearing held at Hill's Resort on October 8, 1964.

Yours respectfully,

HOWARD L. POTTRATZ,
President, Spokane County Sportsmen's Association.

STATEMENT OF TALMON R. MAGER

As Idaho residents for the past 7 years, we urge passage of Senate bill S. 3067, extending the boundary of the Kaniksu National Forest in the State of Idaho. Allowing for preservation of Upper Priest Lake in its wild state is a unique opportunity; clearly appropriate action under the 1911 Weeks Act now requiring funding for land purchases to assure the integrity of this lovely lake—a real gem.

Being interested in matters relating to conservation and recreation, it seems to us that here is an opportunity to apply the principle of varied outdoor resources to meet different needs. Many of our population desire wilderness experiences. Some are unable for a number of reasons to accomplish wilderness area trips. Thus, maintaining intact the wild areas of accessible, by boat, Upper Priest Lake, assures a meaningful experience for significant numbers of visitors.

PARSONS MARINA,
Priest River, Idaho, October 12, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Public Lands Subcommittee,
Washington, D.C.:

For the record, regarding the purchase of the privately owned land on the shores of the Little Priest Lake in Bonner County, Idaho.

I was present at the meeting at Priest Lake, Idaho, on October 8, 1964, and as time did not allow I was unable to give oral testimony so I wish this statement to be made part of the hearing.

It is my personal belief that the Little Priest Lake should be purchased and retained as an untouched area so people of this and later generations may be able to enjoy a look at what this great outdoor heritage was like before the hand of progress changed it. This lake is approachable by boat and is therefore accessible to many people not physically able to hike or ride horseback and yet it is, to this date, almost untouched. I would also like to see it left as it is with no fine modern forest campgrounds, complete with picnic tables, etc., added.

There has been recorded testimony to the fact of how much tax revenue the country would lose if this area was taken from the tax rolls, this could be offset by sale of either State or Federal lands in the county and it must not be overlooked that an investigation by a Federal agency, I believe connected with the area redevelopment program, found that the areas of north Idaho should find and advertise some high points of interest to the tourists of this country. What with the national publicity that acquisition of Little Priest Lake has afforded the lake it has already had a good deal of advertising and would be easier than ever to bring to the tourists' attention, also the fact that this type of attraction is very scarce now and is becoming more so each year, means that its value as a tourist attraction will multiply with the years.

This area of Bonner County is classed as a depressed area and needs this tourist attraction. We the people of Bonner County don't want Federal charity but we will greatly appreciate any aid of this nature that will help us build up our economy.

I close with the statement that I am hoping that some means of trade or purchase can be reached without the use of condemnation, a weapon that is greatly disliked by all freedom-loving people.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK S. PARSONS.

COOLIN, IDAHO, *October 18, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: It is requested that the following letter be considered by the addressed committee and entered in the records of that committee.

I am a year-round resident and landowner of the Priest Lake community.

To further identify myself and my interests pertinent to the possible purchase or condemnation by the Federal Government of privately owned lands situated at Upper Priest Lake, Bonner County, Idaho, I am a present and/or erstwhile member of (or contributor to) the following-named organizations that are dedicated to conservation and improvement of our natural resources—

American Fisheries Society
 Sport Fishing Institute
 Izaak Walton League of America
 Trout Unlimited, Inc.
 The National Wildlife Association
 The Idaho Wildlife Association
 The Priest Lake Sportsman's Association.

Numerous other local and statewide sportsman's associations of other areas of which I have been a resident.

I am, in general, much in favor of any constructive effort that will preserve, rehabilitate, or improve our rapidly dwindling natural resources.

I do not believe that Federal ownership of the two small parcels of land in question at Upper Priest Lake will serve any useful purpose. The general public now has and will continue to have complete and untrammelled use of Upper Priest Lake and in the doubtful event that approximately three-quarters of a mile of lake shore front were withdrawn from public use the general public would still have untrammelled use of 100 percent of the lake waters and about 83.4 percent of the shoreline.

I am most certainly not in favor of condemnation proceedings with regard to these two relatively small land parcels and I am positive that this feeling is shared by the vast majority of the residents and users of this Priest Lake area.

Should you or your committee wish further opinion or fact from me, I would be glad to supply them.

Respectfully,

WILBUR F. BROWN.

FIELD & STREAM,
New York, N.Y., October 18, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Senate Public Lands Subcommittee,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: A great many Idahoans, myself included, feel very grateful to you for holding the hearing on Upper Priest Lake, October 4. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend and respectfully request that this letter be made part of the record of that hearing.

I feel very strongly that Upper Priest Lake is a natural treasure that should be preserved for the benefit of all the people, both now and in the future. I can't think of another single area that is at the same time so perfectly natural and so easily accessible. I am sure that if Upper Priest Lake is preserved in its natural state, its recreational and aesthetic value will increase steadily far into the future.

Sincerely yours,

TED TRUEBLOOD.

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO, *October 16, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Senate Interior Committee, Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Senate
 Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: To identify myself, I am Fenimore Cady, recently president of the Priest Lake State-Lessee Association, requesting that this letter be entered into the record of the hearing on the preservation of Upper Priest Lake, Idaho, as a primitive area.

For the record, the board of directors of the Priest Lake State-Lessee Association voted, on March 24, 1964, to give their unanimous approval to keeping Upper Priest Lake in its virginal state.

I think you will be interested in knowing that 279 out of a possible 350 holders of State leases on Priest Lake have expressed their interest in and loyalty to this organization.

Article II-A of its constitution provides that membership shall be open to any lessee of State-of-Idaho cottage-site lots located on Priest Lake, Bonner County, Idaho.

Section I-A of article I gives as the purposes of the organization the following:

The purposes for which this organization is formed are to promote the welfare, advancement, protection, and right of privacy of all State of Idaho lessees in the lawful enjoyment of Priest Lake and its environments.

To promote, foster, and develop existing and proposed plans and activities, concerning fire protection, police protection, water use and safety, health protection, road construction and maintenance, and social activities.

It is also the aim of this organization to work with the State land board in any way they may suggest.

Mr. Marvin Vandenburg, State land agent for northern Idaho, said, in addressing our fourth annual meeting (May 15, 1964): "The Priest Lake State-Lessee Association and its leaders have been wonderful to work with. We have a good working arrangement with the State-lease lotholders."

In voicing our approval of keeping Upper Priest Lake in its primitive state, it is our understanding that there are three parcels of privately owned land, acquisition of which may entail condemnation proceedings. If there is any other way to secure these acres, which would be more amicable to the parties involved, we are in favor of such procedure. Nothing stirs up more hatred and dissension than condemnation suits and our leaseholders would be bitterly opposed to the establishment of such a precedent.

It can be readily seen that unless certain rules and regulations laid down and enforced, in an area 1 mile wide and 3 miles long, Upper Priest would not long remain a primitive area, when deluged by interested people, coming in from both within and out of the State.

We ask that you and your committee seriously consider the recommendations expressed in this letter, in behalf of the Priest Lake State-Lessee Association.

Sincerely yours,

FENIMORE CADY,
*President, Priest Lake
State-Lessee Association.*

KEOGAN & KEOGAN,
Spokane, Wash., November 3, 1964.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
*U.S. Senator, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: We are writing in regard to the proposed condemnation of private property on Upper Priest Lake, Idaho, for the creation of a wilderness area.

We are generally in favor of such plans as we feel that if something is not done in the near future we will lose the great natural beauty of the Northwest to commercial interests. However, we are completely and unalterably opposed to condemnation of private property to serve this purpose. Property on Priest Lake is extremely valuable, selling in most instances at \$150 per foot. The cost to the Government to condemn private property on the lake in question is prohibitive. Furthermore, the State of Idaho would lose tax money that is being paid by the landowners. This may not be considerable at this time but as the land is developed it will be substantial.

We also object on the grounds that the area in question is not ideally located to serve the avowed purpose. It is too easily accessible by road and by boats and aircraft.

Idaho is sparsely populated. There are thousands of acres of land already owned by the State and Federal Governments that would make excellent wilderness and recreational areas. We do not feel it necessary to destroy the dreams of many of those who now own Upper Priest Lake property, nor is it necessary to expend Government funds when other and better areas are available at no cost to the taxpayers.

Thank you very much for letting us give you our views. We know your time is very valuable, but we are so strongly opposed to the present proposal that we had to make our feelings known.

Very truly yours,

TIM W. KEOGAN,
LARRY T. KEOGAN.

HAMBURG, N.Y., October 26, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Senate Public Land Subcommittee, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I was unable to attend the public hearing on the 8th of October 1964, at Luby Bay, Priest Lake, concerning the upper Priest Lake project.

For this reason I wish to write you a letter confirming my support of this project.

From my point of view the advantages of preserving this lake as a special natural area as unchanged as possible, has the following advantages:

1. The area already is owned all except for a small part of the shoreline by either the Federal Government or the State of Idaho. This makes it easy to get a large area with only a small expenditure of funds.

2. The area is accessible by water on a calm, placid, small river called "Thorefare." This makes it accessible not only to the young and strong but also to small children and to old people. It is easy for them to be transported to this area by boat.

3. The area has several beaches that make excellent campsites and many areas of hiking.

4. The lake itself furnishes not only beauty but the opportunity for fishing, water skiing, and all the water sports that are going to be in such great demand as the population in that area increases.

5. Probably in the future, the most important contribution this lake and its watershed will make will be providing water as part of the Columbia River watershed. If the experience in the East is any measure of what the future holds for the western part of the United States, water will soon become one of the most important items for the future of both our recreational and industrial lives.

6. As the watershed supplying this entire lake is in the hands of either the Federal Government or the State of Idaho, the ability to control and keep pure the water supply of this lake is assured as it is in only a few other areas in the United States.

7. The beauty alone and opportunity of appreciation of the outdoors would make this area an important part of the natural areas that the U.S. Government has protected.

8. The area is located such that it will furnish opportunities for people in Washington, Idaho, Montana, and southern Alberta and British Columbia to indulge in recreation and outdoor sports.

The disadvantages of acquiring this area as I see them, may be listed as follows:

1. It will deprive this area of a chance for commercial development along the line of some of the lakes such as Lake Tahoe.

2. That a certain amount of money will have to be expended to acquire the property in private hands.

3. If the area is set aside, it will require constant supervision and management by some group presumably jointly by the Forest Service and the State of Idaho.

4. I would at least imply that logging the virgin stands of timber next to the lake and in the watershed should be carefully supervised and restricted or part of the value of the area as a natural area would be diminished.

5. It will forever take this area off the tax rolls of both the Federal Government and the State.

6. However, in considering both the pros and cons I think that it is apparent that there would be a great advantage in preserving this beautiful lake and watershed for the generations of the future.

7. Although it is not likely, it is even possible that the range of wild caribou in this area also could be preserved so the coming generations could see these animals in their native habitat.

I hope this letter hasn't been too long and will be of some help in judging between all the projects that will come before this committee. I appreciate as most people in the country do, the great work that your committee is doing in trying to preserve some of our special areas.

Sincerely,

JOSHUA H. CAREY, M.D.

SPOKANE, WASH., October 27, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,

Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am writing to you as the owner of property on Upper Priest Lake in northern Idaho.

In 1923, when I was a young mother, we purchased a homestead that was originally homesteaded by Wm. P. Schurr. When my husband and I went up to the upper lake we had \$10 to our names besides two teams of horses that we were going to use in logging. We lost these two teams of horses due to the severe winters.

We made our money the hard way by logging in that area and along with my cooking for our men who were logging for us. I had to transfer supplies including feed for horses from a barge at the head of the big lake into a smaller rowboat in the fall of the year, when there was ice along the banks of the thoroughfare. The water is cold and there was no channel dredged out in the thoroughfare and it was too shallow for even a rowboat to get through and I had to wade in the water and pull the rowboat through the shallow water. I had to move a bargeload of supplies in this manner and it was cold, miserable work.

Believe me there were no garden club members, hobnailer clubs (which amuse me now as hobnails and calk boots were the way of life and the trademark of a logger). There were no fishermen around at that time of the year. We had as neighbors Geisingers 4 miles down the lake at the outlet of the thoroughfare from the upper lake and, of course, there were bachelors who were prospectors and trappers.

We worked hard and had faith in this lake and felt that someday we would be able to develop it for our son and grandchildren and we were looking to the future.

The following year we were able to buy the other place which was known as the Wheatley townsite on Trapper Creek. That gave us the place on the little river and the place on Trapper Creek. Of course, our problem was paying for these places and along with youth there is also inexperience and we paid 8- and 12-percent interest on the balance of these mortgages, and I literally spent my youth paying for these places.

We went through the depression paying for these places along with the taxes. Of course, in comparison with the prices and costs of items today it was a vast difference. However, I heard a story the other day which is very much in point. There were two men in a butcher shop buying meat and one man said to the other, when he paid \$3.70 for the meat, "30 years ago I could have bought this same amount of meat for 25 cents." The other man said, "Yeah, but, where did you get the 25 cents?"

That was the way it was with us and the vast majority of the American public. We were broke and keeping these places was a real effort.

My husband and I never believed in giveaway programs and when a lot of people were on relief we were still going and paying our obligations.

Some of the jobs my husband had was plowing snow with an open 10-ton caterpillar; the temperature was close to 20° or 30° below zero and he would stay on his plow job for 72 hours at a time without sleep. He also took a job hauling sand with an old truck, and ordinary shovels didn't get enough production, so they cut down a one-horse fresnoe or slip which was used before all of the dozers and modern machinery was brought in to move dirt with. I wonder what these wage-and-hour contracts and unions would think of this type of operation. However, that was the way these places were paid for.

The roads that lead to the big lake were mud and snow 6 months out of the year during this time. Then you took a boat up the big lake to the little lake. We couldn't afford a good boat and what we had was small and the power was an old Evinrude that was about as cantankerous and inefficient piece of equipment that was ever devised by man. But, my husband always said it was better than rowing, which I will agree with.

During this time that we had this property the Forest Service used the Wheatley townsite (Trapper Creek) place for their mule strings which were used at that time to move supplies to their crew in the area. There were also blister rust camps that were maintained by the Forest Service. The Forest Service requested permission to use the property and never paid us anything for the use of these places and we gave them our permission and the only request that was made was that they leave the place clean which they did.

Now, of course, the roads are paved and the lakes are accessible by fine roads and cars. The boats are big and in a matter of minutes the upper lake is reached by fine boats through the thoroughfare that has now been dredged, and there is also a dam at the outlet which keeps the water high and the upper lake accessible to big boats. There are a lot of float planes that also use the upper lake.

In the past 20 years I have had numerous opportunities to sell this place; however, I have refused these offers because I want the places for my son and grandchildren.

I am still working and still paying my own way, and after working hard to keep these places, object to either having these places condemned or acquired by public money because this upper lake can only be reached by a few, and certainly does not go for the benefit of all the people as these alleged groups maintain.

In closing, what was obvious to me and my first husband, who passed away in 1946, that this area would someday be developed and that day is close at hand.

Now some small groups who had the same opportunity to buy these places that we had, and there were none of these people around when we purchased the property and they certainly were not around when the going was tough, want to capitalize on something that has made this country the greatest in the world, and that is individual enterprise.

I prefer to have this private land remain as such and to be used in whatever legal manner the owners may want to use it.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

SYLVIA BURWELL.

ADAMS ENGINEERING Co.,
Spokane, Wash., October 30, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: As a taxpayer and an avid sportsman, I am strongly opposed to the acquisition by the State or Federal Government of any additional lands on Upper Priest Lake, Idaho.

It is my opinion that the amount of publicly owned land is already excessive and I am particularly against spending public money on Upper Priest Lake land for the following reasons:

1. The land is too close to populated areas to be classed as a wilderness area. Certainly there is reason for preserving areas that are remote and primitive, but Upper Priest Lake does not fall in this category any more than Coeur d'Alene Lake does.

2. The counties of north Idaho already have a difficult time maintaining the minimum amount of necessary public facilities due to the large amount of land that is presently owned by the State and Federal Governments and is not on the tax rolls.

3. It would make a great deal more sense for the public agencies to sell off a large amount of their existing holdings and retain only what the funds available will adequately develop and maintain for public recreation.

4. With the staggering national debt that will certainly be passed on to our heirs, it is utterly foolish to even consider spending one-half million dollars or more to acquire the balance of publicly owned land in this area.

I hope that you will give this serious thought and consider my opinions as well as the few who are pressuring for public ownership of all of the area around Upper Priest Lake.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD S. ADAMS, P.E.

UNITED BODY & FENDER WORKS,
Spokane, Wash., October 28, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office
Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: We people living here in this great Northwest section of our country are appalled by the thought of more encroachment upon our rights as citizens of this country by the Federal and State Governments.

Such is the case now proposed by the acquisition of private property in the State of Idaho on Upper Priest Lake with the use of Federal funds.

The claim is made that this is a primitive area and as such should be kept that way for the use of every citizen; but such is not the case. By excluding private development, this area is being kept from the general public and made available only to a few select citizens that have the time and money to use it.

The greater share of property on Upper Priest is already owned by either the State or Federal Government and the balance of deeded land has been owned for years by private citizens. They should have the right to use it as they see fit without the encroachment of this right by either Federal or State Government.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM A. THIELMAN.

HAMBLIN, GILBERT & BROOKE,
SPOKANE, WASH., October 30, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Committee, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office
Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I wish to express my opposition to the proposal that the Federal Government condemn private property along the shores of Upper Priest Lake in northern Idaho. Both the U.S. Government and the State of Idaho already own large portions of the shoreline of Priest Lake, so there cannot be any overriding need for the acquisition of additional lands now in private hands. Certainly the right of private individuals to acquire and own attractive lakefront property should not be interfered with by the Federal Government on the excuse that the property should be preserved for the use of all, at least where there is so much other property already owned by the Federal Government, available for the same purpose.

I am also opposed to the U.S. Government using our tax moneys for such purposes where the need has not been established.

Yours very truly,

FRED W. GILBERT.

PALOUSE, WASH., October 30, 1964.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office
Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: It is our understanding that the committee which you chair is considering condemnation of private property on Upper Priest Lake in Idaho.

We believe that individual properties deeded to the individual as these were by our Governments should remain on our tax rolls. Unless needed for necessary Government uses, i.e., schools, roads, etc., their taxes help ease the burden on others in the area. In checking we find that Idaho has the largest percentage of its land either in State or Federal ownerships. This then would add to these holdings of nontaxpaying lands.

We hope that your committee will leave this property as it now stands with the individual owners allowed to develop it as they wish.

Yours very truly,

Mr. and Mrs. HENRY M. ANKCORN.

SPOKANE, WASH., *October 9, 1964.*

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Although a resident of Spokane, Wash., I am a property owner and taxpayer in Bonner County, Idaho. The private lands proposed to be acquired on Upper Priest Lake for inclusion in the Kaniksu National Forest (S. 3067) are located in this county.

A unique situation is involved. Contrary to what much of the public has been led to believe, a primitive or wild area would not result. To have the national forest own the lake's entire shoreline would only prevent proposed commercialization by subdivision. While the lake is circled by a roadless area, it is not inaccessible. It is easily reached by boat and thousands of people each year take advantage of this easy water access.

If it is the committee's decision that acquisition of this land for recreational purposes is desirable, then I believe consideration should be given the fact that more than four-fifths of Bonner County already is in public ownership. I respectfully urge that if the committee approves acquisition of the privately owned land on Upper Priest Lake for inclusion in the Kaniksu National Forest that the legislation also make provision for sale by the Forest Service of national forest land of equal value in the county. Such land is available on the west side of the main Priest Lake, and there should be no difficulty finding buyers.

It is important to Bonner County that there be no further narrowing of its tax base.

Respectfully,

L. V. BROWN.

SPOKANE, WASH., *October 30, 1964.*

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
U.S. Senator, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I have been a taxpayer for nearly 60 years and feel I have a right to enter a protest against the State of Idaho to acquire land for recreational purposes on Upper Priest Lake, which is privately owned.

And I certainly am against condemning private property for that purpose.

Upper Priest Lake is only used by those who have boats to get there and it isn't practical as an area for recreation.

So I am protesting to this move and feel it isn't fair to those who own property and have paid taxes for years.

Sincerely,

Mrs. THOMAS A. LEE.

SPOKANE, WASH., *October 27, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Regarding acquisition of property on Upper Priest Lake in north Idaho. I have been up to the little lake and will agree that it is a very nice lake.

However, as a taxpayer and lake property owner I object to the Government paying any money for the purchase of this property as there is no necessity for the purchase of this property. There is approximately 10 miles of lake front and the maximum privately owned frontage is, to my best knowledge, 1½ miles. The people who have boats can still use the lake with no problem, and with the number of boats that go up there, fishing there is no solitude for any lone boat.

The property on the upper lake is only ¾ miles from a very good access road which is being built by the Forest Service which will connect with the Canadian Transcontinental Highway. Two miles by boat, down the thoroughfare, there are many cabins and homes well populated on the big lake.

Although I am a fisherman and hunter, in a State as large as Idaho, where the greatest percentage is either State or Government owned, I am opposed to purchasing any land by condemnation or acquisition of any kind. I believe in free enterprise and that private interests develop their own property and the Government keep out of the acquisition of this private property.

Very truly yours,

J. ARTHUR JOHNSON.

SPOKANE, WASH., November 2, 1964.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. BIBLE: This letter is written in protest to the proposed acquisition of private land around Upper Priest Lake, Idaho, and other land in general.

Yours truly,

O. J. HELLAND.

NOVEMBER 1, 1964.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am deeply concerned over the possibility of private property on Upper Priest Lake in Idaho State being acquired by the Government for recreational purposes. In the first place, there is no necessity for it as the largest percentage of land is either owned by the State or Federal Government and the State can develop its own land for recreation.

Upper Priest Lake is not a primitive area. Three and a half miles from the head of the upper lake there is a road going in that is called an access road for logging which will connect up with the Canadian Transcontinental Highway. It is 15 or 20 minutes by boat from the upper lake to the lower lake, depending on the boat. On the lower lake lots have been leased along the east side by the State, and all of these lots are on the REA powerlines. At night when all of these cabins have their lights on it makes the east side of the lake look like the main streets of Los Angeles, Calif.

Taxpayers should realize that nothing is free, and any money spent by the Government is their money and no one else's.

Individual enterprise has made this country as great as it is. The individual will work 16 to 20 hours a day for himself, although the totalitarian states have never been able to get people to do it. Let Upper Priest Lake be developed by private interests and let them win or lose on their own without Government condemnation or intervention.

I have the honor to remain,

Yours very truly,

JOHN ORG.

SPOKANE, WASH., October 26, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

HONORABLE SIR: As I have lived in the inland empire since 1903 I feel I have the right to object to the Government taking land from people who for many years have owned and paid taxes on this property on Upper Priest Lake in Idaho. Therefore, I am opposed to the present plan of making a primitive area there. Much of the shore of the lake is already Government owned.

Yours very truly,

EDITH M. HEWIT.

SPOKANE, WASH., October 30, 1964.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I should like to protest the proposed confiscation of lands on Upper Priest Lake in Idaho. As you well know, the institution of private property has always held a high place in our American way of life. From the very be-

ginning of our country, we have held our heads high for the amount of respect our Government has held for the individual's right to own land and dispose of it as he sees fit.

In the case of the lands of Upper Priest Lake, I think the guiding principles should be the same as they were when the land was attained by the present owners. In short, these people ought to be allowed to dispose of their lands as they see fit, and not as the Government sees fit. Further, I should like to point out, there exists under the present status quo a situation beneficial in nature to the State and county. I speak of the tax roll. Those levels of government now get tax revenue from these lands. Should they be taken from the private citizens, no further tax revenue would accrue.

Therefore it seems painfully obvious that it is in the best interests of not only the individuals involved, but also in the best interests of the Government, for herein we may carry on a rich heritage of private ownership and tax accrualment therefrom.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

CHRISTOPHER CANWELL.

SPokane, Wash., October 21, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: In regard to the wilderness bill and Upper Priest Lake in northern Idaho, I am a co-owner of two places on the Upper Lake, one at the mouth of the little river, and the other at Trapper Creek.

I object to the acquisition of private land on Upper Priest Lake by the Government either by condemnation or purchase for five reasons:

(1) The Upper Priest Lake is not primitive as there is a very good forest service road that will connect up with the Canadian transcontinental highway. This road will run within $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the head of the lake. By boat it is 2 miles to the big lake where, on the east side of the lake, there are cabins all the way to Coolin, Idaho. All of these cabins are supplied with REA lights and at night it looks like the main streets of Los Angeles. With the advent of modern boats it takes only 15 minutes to go from the lower lake to the upper lake. Flying time from Spokane, Wash., a city of close to 200,000, is 20 minutes in a small private plane.

(2) This upper lake is accessible only to a select few who have boats with big motors or airplanes and not to the general public as a whole.

(3) The shoreline on Upper Priest Lake is approximately 10 miles and out of this 10 miles of shoreline there is approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in private ownership. The balance remains in State or Government ownership. What is there to preventing those who want to use the upper lake for camping on Government- or State-owned land or pay for camping on the private property.

(4) The people who purchased these two places over 40 years ago wanted these places both as a home and for future development. They had sacrificed a lot to obtain and then keep these places. This is deeded land and in the State of Idaho the majority of the land is either owned by the Federal Government or State, and in a State as large as Idaho can see no reason to acquire private property with Federal funds or show any necessity for acquisition of private property.

(5) In Bonner County, where Priest Lake is located, there has always been the problem of not enough taxes to meet their obligation and to take additional property from the tax rolls to give to the State or Federal Government that already owns over 60 percent of the county is completely out of proportion.

For the above reasons, certainly object to spending any money for acquisition of private property on the Upper Priest Lake.

Very truly yours,

DON GUMAER.

SPOKANE, WASH., *October 30, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I am writing to you regarding the proposed condemnation of private property on Upper Priest Lake in northern Idaho. I have been on Upper Priest Lake, boating there with my family. My son was part of a group of Explorer Scouts who canoed on Upper Priest Lake and then hiked to within a short distance of the Canadian border a few years ago. It is indeed a beautiful spot—I hope you will make it a point to see it for yourself.

This summer when we were there we noticed some subdividing and lot development work going on on the south shore of the lake, near the beginning of the "narrows." Lots were advertised for sale, and some building seemed to be in progress. I am informed that the promoters of this project have been offered an earnest money payment and a proposed sum of money to sell this parcel of property to the Federal Government. What does the Federal Government want with this private property? The natural beauty of the lake and the hills and mountains surrounding it cannot be endangered by private property owners. Why should this particular lake be kept under Government ownership?

Did you know that there are two parcels of private property near the north end of Upper Priest Lake which are being overlooked in this proposed purchase by the Federal Government? Let's let our constitutional rights of private property and private enterprise be upheld, instead of encroached on and taken away by the Federal Government. Why not let the State of Idaho, together with private citizens, work out their own recreational and wildlife programs?

I strongly urge you to personally investigate this development and take all facets into careful consideration before the time limit on the proposed purchase expires. I trust that your duties and responsibilities as a U.S. Senator will be carefully weighed in relation to the private property of the individual U.S. citizen.

If you can find the time, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you in this matter.

Most sincerely,

DICK B. TATRO.

BOISE, IDAHO, *October 27, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: In regard to my land on Upper Priest Lake, while I may be the smallest owner, I want to keep this land.

I've lived on Priest Lake for many years and, in my opinion, it is the most beautiful spot on earth.

I'm keeping this land to pass on to my grandchildren. I'm not interested in land exchange, I just want what is rightfully mine.

Surely the owners of this land can keep it if they wish. Just to set myself right I want you to know I'm one that isn't willing to let their land go back to the primitive.

I can't see how it would benefit anyone if it did. People come and go on Priest Lake as they have done for many years; no one has stopped them.

I attended a meeting here September 8 and this was the first I had heard of this move to put it back to the primitive.

Sincerely,

FERN M. GEISINGER.

BOISE, IDAHO, *October 26, 1964.*

Senator BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I have been considerably concerned over various news items concerning privately owned land around Priest Lake.

In any of the 50 States of the United States, it seems to me, that the deeded property right of citizens should be protected from exploitation by the interests of minority groups—even when these groups seem to advance ideas for such glamorous and worthwhile schemes as protection of scenic areas and wildlife.

It is often a great sacrifice when personally owned properties have to be condemned for the general public's use in such instances as needful public utilities. But the condemnation of personally held, deeded property, the rights which have even been established by long ago homestead rights and which have been held in good faith by the rightful owners for many years, on the mere whim of "do-gooders" seems most unfair and un-American. In the State of Idaho which already has many acres of untaxed land it seems to be most unwise to add any more. We need greater tax revenue in Idaho as it is. A good paying resort area would probably be good sense.

If deeded properties are to fall a prey to such schemes with no more justification than seems apparent in the Priest Lake tracts it would seem to me that titles, deeds, etc., to privately owned lands are in serious jeopardy.

Although I own no land around Priest Lake or in north Idaho and have no personal financial interests whatsoever in this Priest Lake area, I want to bring to your attention, my belief that any such procedures of condemning titles to personally owned land is a grave and serious challenge to individual rights.

Furthermore it appears to me that owners of such deeded properties would find adequate legal protection through free American courts.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs. H. S.) ELIZABETH C. BOWEN.

SPOKANE, WASH., *October 22, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
U.S. Senator, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: I am a taxpayer and have owned lake property for 45 years, and I feel that Upper Priest Lake property should not be taken from the people who bought it years ago and lived there for years, and now wish to keep it for their grandchildren. They have paid the taxes all these years. After all this is not Russia. How would you feel if your summer home or property were taken over by the State?

Sincerely,

Mrs. C. E. ROBERTSON.

SPOKANE, WASH., *October 20, 1964.*

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am writing this letter in an earnest request for your support in the preservation of Upper Priest Lake, Idaho.

It is one of very few unspoiled parts of our country that is roadless and primitive, but available for all to see by boat.

Commercial interests threaten now, and immediate action must be taken to put the balance of the private land bordering the lake into the public domain.

Your influence in supporting this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated by all conservation-minded people today and will be much more esteemed by future generations.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST R. VAN GELDER.

SPOKANE, WASH.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I don't quite know how to write this, so I'll just write as I think.

I would like to make an earnest request for your support in the preservation of the Upper Priest Lake, Idaho, as an unspoiled natural beauty, as there is getting to be so few of them in our great country that are unspoiled by commercial interests. Not that I am against commercial interests, but in a case of this kind, it could be enjoyed by many a public domain. Thirty-five years ago my folks moved here from El Paso, Tex. I was most fortunate to

have spent part of the first summer at Priest Lake. Then it was an all-day trip to Upper Priest Lake, but was sure worth it, and to this day I enjoy it just as much as then, if not more. I have a small cabin on the large lake, so every weekend I can, I'm there. It was sad the weather was so bad when you were here. I just know you would have enjoyed it ever so much. My utmost hopes are to make this a public domain. So please excuse my rambling, Senator.

Always yours,

HOOPER M. LIDSTONE.

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO, October 7, 1964.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: We were sorry to be unable to be present at the hearing in Priest Lake concerning plans for preservation of Upper Priest Lake.

We have taken many enjoyable trips to Upper Priest Lake and areas surrounding it. It is one of our favorite spots in Idaho.

We feel that it has a great potential as a recreational area. Many people like to get out on trails or boat in unspoiled areas, places where they can observe wildlife in its natural habitat. The Upper Priest Lake area would be a perfect place for this type of recreation. Many times we have seen deer and bear on the shore.

This area could eventually become a hiking and boating area similar to Glacier National Park where thousands of people visit each year, many of whom take to the trails so that they can feel the freedom, observe wildlife, and take in the beauty that an unspoiled area can give you.

We have few large unspoiled lakes left and every year our population is growing—these people are going to need areas where they can go to relax and get away from it all.

We certainly feel it would be to the public good to permit addition of private lands on Upper Priest Lake to the Kaniksu National Forest.

Yours very truly,

SHIRLEY G. STURTS.
KEITH H. STURTS.

SPOKANE, WASH., October 7, 1964.

Re Upper Priest Lake (Idaho).

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Unfortunately I am unable to testify in person at the October 8 hearing regarding Upper Priest Lake but I would like my following remarks to be put into the official records.

I would like to see upper Priest Lake remain in its wilderness state so that people of this and other generations to come, can enjoy its peaceful solitude. More than ever we need areas such as this. With ever-increasing population and leisure time, areas of the yet unspoiled variety like Upper Priest Lake need to be set aside for the future. Land that is suitable and practical for a wilderness area is fast disappearing. Shall it always be too little too late or shall we learn from past experience and save this area while we still can? I have visited Upper Priest Lake by boat and on foot and have shared the quiet undisturbed beauty with others. The area is worthy of preserving so that many others can also share this experience. The cost of this land is small when compared to the wealth it will bring over the years.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH COLLINS.

SPOKANE, WASH.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: In noticing the rapid disappearance of natural and primitive areas I would like to encourage the retention of Upper Priest Lake in its primitive state.

It is my desire to have this letter be made part of the permanent hearing record.

Thank you,

FRED NUFFER.

SPokane, WASH., October 9, 1964.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Although a resident of Spokane, Wash., I am a property owner and taxpayer in Bonner County, Idaho. The private lands proposed to be acquired on Upper Priest Lake for inclusion in the Kaniksu National Forest (S. 3067) are located in this county.

A unique situation is involved. Contrary to what much of the public has been led to believe, a primitive or wild area would not result. To have the national forest own the lake's entire shoreline would only prevent proposed commercialization by subdivision. While the lake is circled by a roadless area, it is not inaccessible. It is easily reached by boat and thousands of people each year take advantage of this easy water access.

If it is the committee's decision that acquisition of this land for recreational purposes is desirable, then I believe consideration should be given the fact that more than four-fifths of Bonner County already is in public ownership. I respectfully urge that if the committee approves acquisition of the privately owned land on Upper Priest Lake for inclusion in the Kaniksu National Forest that the legislation also make provision for sale by the Forest Service of national forest land of equal value in the county. Such land is available on the west side of the main Priest Lake, and there should be no difficulty finding buyers.

It is important to Bonner County that there be no further narrowing of its tax base.

Respectfully,

L. V. BROWN.

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO, October 6, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman of the Subcommittee for Public Lands, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I will not be able to attend the public hearing at Priest Lake, Thursday. Therefore I would like to express my opinion on the subject by letter.

I am very much in keeping the shores of Upper Priest Lake as a wilderness area or as much a wilderness as possible.

I also favor the purchasing of the private holdings that now exist and revert them back to the U.S. Forest Service, as the remainder of the area is.

I believe that there is not another place of its type and character left in the Western United States.

It is a pleasure to step ashore on the shores of the Upper Priest Lake and enjoy yourself without seeing those signs, "No trespassing," "Private property, keep out," and "Trespassers will be prosecuted."

Please consider my thinking along these lines.

Sincerely yours,

CECIL F. McCracken.

SPokane, WASH., October 10, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

SIR: I'm writing this letter in regards to the condemnation and acquisition of private lands around Upper Priest Lake in Idaho. I don't own land there; but I lived and taught school in and around the Priest Lake region. I enjoyed the hospitality of many of these property owners since 1920. Hence my interest in the condemnation and acquisition of these properties.

Upper Priest Lake is not needed, nor will it be used for power or irrigation projects for "public" use. It is to be used for recreational purposes "only," and "only" for the "select" few. Is it right or just in the eyes of the laws of our land that the special few be allowed special privileges at the expense of private property owners? I believe in progress only if that progress is for the benefit of the many instead of a select few.

We spend thousands of dollars to fight communism because communism believes in government ownership of everything. Why use money to fight the communism scourge, then turn around and "force" acquisition of private-deeded property for the Federal Government? To me this amounts to the same thing. It seems to me that condemnation and acquisition of private lands harks back to the Boston Tea Party era. Instead of taxation without representation (which caused a war), this acquisition of private-deeded property is against the will of the people.

Let's not stray from our own wonderful Constitution which decrees that the United States of America is the land of the "just" and "free."

Why take this land off the tax roll? Why use tax money to buy taxpaying land? Why not develop the vast public lands now possessed by the Government—lands that the general public can enjoy instead of lands that a special few enjoy?

Let us keep our land free for private and individual enterprise.

Yours truly,

Mrs. LOIE PIERSON.

SPokane, Wash., October 26, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Interior Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SENATOR: In regard to the Upper Priest Lake territory, I am impressed with the venturesome spirit of our citizens in the great Northwest.

And since they have purchased this land along the lake and paid taxes all these years, built homes and places of recreation, I feel they have as much right to this part of the lake as they would a home in the city.

People in the cities do not want a developed cityfied look when they seek refuge from their daily environments, they want to spend a few days or weeks in Nature's natural setting.

Please let our people develop their own land as they so choose to do, or give them the same price for their land as you would want if you had purchased a "choice" Upper Priest Lake front.

Yours respectfully,

E. I. HATCH.

NOVEMBER 1, 1964.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to express my concern over the proposed condemnation of private property on Upper Priest Lake in the State of Idaho by the Government.

As the largest percentage of this land is owned by either the State or the Federal Government, there should be no need to acquire private land with Federal funds for recreational purposes, as the State can develop its own land for this purpose.

Upper Priest Lake is not used by the general public. It is only the select few who have high-powered boats to take them up there. In the event the Government took over, the lake still would be used only by this select few and not by the general public, who, of course, should be the ones to benefit from the expenditure of public money.

This is far different from the aquisition of private property in the construction of dams for public power, where only the land covered with water is taken, and the power thus developed is used by the general public and everyone benefits from lower power rates—not just the comparative few as in the case of Upper Priest Lake.

The Government has taken over many things, denying the people the right of individual enterprise which has made this country as great as it is. The case at hand is another attempted step in that direction.

I firmly believe that Upper Priest Lake should be developed by private interests without Government condemnation or intervention and strongly urge your support.

Believe me.

Yours very truly,

GLENN H. DAVIS.

DOVER, IDAHO, *November 5, 1964.*

Re bill S. 3067.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I understand that you are chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

I sincerely urge you to do everything in your power to assure the passage of bill (S. 3067), which is to extend the boundaries of the Kaniksu National Forest in the State of Idaho, and for the preservation of Upper Priest Lake in its natural state.

This lake is a thing of unsurpassed beauty, which I believe should be preserved for all time in its natural state; unspoiled by buildings, roads, and free from the development which has happened to the majority of lakes in this Nation.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Wm. J. O'DONNELL, JR.

POTLATCH FORESTS, INC.,
Lewiston, Idaho, October 23, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: This letter is written to state my objections to the acquisition of private land around Upper Priest Lake for the purpose of making it a primitive area.

(1) The U.S. Government or the State of Idaho already own a large portion of the land around the lake. Since the area is not really a "primitive" area, it would not become more primitive by the Government buying up the few remaining privately owned pieces of property.

(2) Idaho has a large number of very primitive areas without having to purchase more land for this purpose.

(3) I believe that the funds could be used elsewhere rather than go to a selected few property owners. I dislike thinking that any part of my taxes are going to make someone wealthy. From what the newspapers have said, three people who own 140 acres have already been paid \$300,000 not to sell. This, to my way of thinking, is out of reason.

Due to these three reasons, I advocate that the Government keep the land that they now own and let it remain in a natural state, but not pay exorbitant prices for the remaining pieces of property.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD R. ANKORN.

THOMAS INSURANCE AGENCY,
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, October 29, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Lands Subcommittee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I wish the following to be filed as testimony concerning the Upper Priest Lake in northern Idaho:

Most all the lakes in the United States are surrounded with homesites and privately owned property and the "Keep Out" and the "Private Property" signs dominate the landscape. This, in a sense, gives these property owners a lake for their personal enjoyment at the public's expense.

The few lakes that are left should be jealously guarded against going into private ownership of shore areas. The individual citizen has only his Government to look forward to in order to safeguard his rights to these public-owned lakes and streams.

I am 100 percent in favor of keeping Upper Priest Lake in its primitive status and guaranteeing its use for all the public to enjoy for all time to come.

Yours,

ROBERT G. THOMAS.

COEUR D'ALENE WILDLIFE FEDERATION,
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, October 28, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Sublands Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I wish the following statement be included in the hearing regarding Upper Priest Lake in northern Idaho.

The Coeur d'Alene Wildlife Federation has a current membership of 1,140 persons, about 350 of which are of junior age. This federation has always endorsed the program to keep Upper Priest Lake free from any type of development. We believe this is the only approach to keep the lake available for all the people for all the time.

Yours truly,

ROBERT G. THOMAS, *President.*

SPOKANE, WASH., *November 1, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: This letter is to protest the public acquisition of private land belonging to Mrs. Sylvia Burwell, Spokane, Wash., in the area of Upper Priest Lake, Idaho.

She has maintained this property for years as means for personal enjoyment and an investment potential. If the property is acquired publicly it will deny her these things and work a personal hardship.

Thank you,

H. V. PARSONS.

POST FALLS, IDAHO, *November 3, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: By all means save Upper Priest Lake for recreation. Few spots like this are left and should not be destroyed by the usual commercial inundation.

Sincerely yours,

DEAN D. TRIGG.

To Whom It May Concern:

Have paid taxes for nearly 50 years in the State of Idaho (Priest River). I do think it would be a grave mistake to turn said property to Idaho and United States for recreational park. It is a beautiful spot and much beloved, as those who frequent it in our midst, as well as from a distance, all agree.

We would like to keep private property intact.

Truly yours,

MARTHA WONCH,
(Mrs. F. A. Wonch).

LATAH COUNTY TITLE Co.,
Moscow, Idaho, *October 30, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: It has come to my attention that the Federal Government is planning on condemning private property on Upper Priest Lake for a primitive area. I believe that at the present time that about 72 percent of the land in Idaho is either State or Federal land, on which no direct real property taxes are paid. Doesn't it seem to you that we already have enough Federal Government land and enough Government in business? We are having a struggle in Idaho in raising sufficient taxes to take care of our schools, etc., and now it is intended to take more land off of the tax rolls.

As a private citizen I want to say that I am completely discouraged and disgusted with Government controls, waste in Government, Government where private business should be. Senator Bible, is it not possible for you, and other

Congressmen to get together and prevent the Government from taking over what rightfully belongs to citizens and private interests?

Very truly yours,

CHARLES J. KIBLEN, *President.*

MOSCOW, IDAHO, *October 30, 1964.*

Re condemnation proposal of private property on Upper Priest Lake, Idaho.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I understand that there is a proposal before your committee at the present time to condemn some private property on Upper Priest Lake in our State of Idaho.

I don't feel that it is necessary for the Government, either Federal or State, to acquire more of Idaho's lands for recreational purposes than they have at the present time. A vast portion of the land in Idaho is presently owned by the State or Federal Governments at the present time and I do not see where it should be necessary for either of these governments to acquire more of private land in our State. This general area could hardly be classified as one that could fit into the primitive-area proposals of the Federal Government because it is only a 15- or 20-minute boat ride from Upper Priest Lake to Lower Priest Lake. On the lower side of the lake there are lots that have been leased by the State and the REA powerline connect to cabins owned on this leased land by private individuals. During the summer there are many powerboats on the upper lake fishing and water skiing. Also, this land and lake is immediately accessible for the residents of Spokane, Wash., which city has a population of around 200,000 people. The private property on Upper Priest Lake is deeded land and as such should be conveyed or developed in every possible means to secure higher taxes for our county and our State, these taxes to be used for education, State roads, etc. To remove even further property from the State tax role means that the State and county would have to look again to the Federal Government for aid and assistance with their educational programs and roadbuilding programs. I do not feel that we should look to the Federal Government for this type of assistance.

This land would not be used by the multitudinous public. It would still be used by the very few who probably are the very few that use it now.

The most important thing is that many of these people who own this private property on Upper Priest Lake have spent a lifetime obtaining this property with the view in mind of future development, either by themselves or by their children. These individuals should be left alone with their possessions, to make of them what they will.

Please consider leaving Upper Priest Lake alone to be developed by private enterprise and private interest, for the several reasons that I have mentioned.

Very truly yours,

E. B. NEWSOME.

POCATELLO, IDAHO, *October 23, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR: Government control of the Upper Priest Lake area does not appear to be in the best public interest. I am personally acquainted with the country in question. For many years I lived near there and spent a considerable amount of time working around Priest Lake. I am therefore speaking from personal knowledge of that area.

The land in question in no way answers the requisities of what is commonly referred to as a primitive area. It is too accessible, and too near populated areas.

Government control would not serve the public's best interest from a tax standpoint. Undoubtedly the private property owners will eventually develop their holdings, which will mean considerably more revenue for the State and county. If the Government takes over that land, it will merely mean more spending of public funds without any real benefit to any but a possible few.

You are urged to leave Upper Priest Lake to its present owners and allow them to develop the area so everyone will benefit.

Respectfully yours,

F. L. POIRIER.

POCATELLO, IDAHO, October 27, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I have taken a keen interest in following the efforts of the Federal Government to control the Upper Priest Lake area. This interest was prompted by the fact that I have spent considerable vacation time in that area. My firm impression is that this area cannot be classified as what is commonly termed "primitive area." It is accessible and adjacent to quite densely populated areas.

Certainly removal of this area from the tax rolls would be detrimental to the public interest. I note the private owners in the area are beginning to develop their holdings, and this should result in increased tax revenue.

I solicit that your efforts be directed toward assuring that this area remain in the hands of private owners. Let these owners plan and execute the development of this area without Government intervention.

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM G. ALDRICH.

SPRINGER INSURANCE AGENCY,
Genessee, Idaho.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Since I have fished and traveled in the Priest Lake country of Idaho and I am familiar with that area, the proposed condemnation proceedings on private property in the area of Upper Priest Lake interests me.

I have always favored some wilderness area programs inasmuch as posterity needs an opportunity to see and enjoy the natural beauty of America as it was when white men first settled our West; however, it is reaching a point when Idaho has more wilderness area than it needs and we need no more. The State and Federal Government already control so much of Idaho that it would seem to me that the economy has suffered and has kept Idaho an undeveloped State.

Since the large Priest Lake area is already dotted with lake homes and privately owned camp areas and is so close to Upper Priest Lake I can see little reason for the Federal Government appropriating additional funds to take over private lands on Upper Priest Lake. It would only remove presently private held land from our tax rolls, which would reduce the tax income and increase even further the stranglehold the Federal Government is holding on our lives.

I say that the privately owned land in the Upper Priest Lake area should be left as is and private initiative should have the opportunity to develop it. Let the Federal Government delevop the huge landholdings it has now rather than try to gobble up more.

Our great country has been built on private initiative and private enterprise and I know as sure as I am sitting at this typewriter that this is the primary reason that we have developed such a vast lead over our neighboring countries and have the highest standard of living in the world. I am truly worried about the increasing hold the Federal Government has over our lives and I sincerely feel that if Government doesn't soon pull back and quit trying to control so much of our everyday living, we will suffer internal decay.

We in Idaho are in desperate trouble raising funds for our educational institutions and any additional loss of privately owned land from our tax rolls certainly aggravates the problem.

Let the privately owned land on Upper Priest Lake remain privately owned.

Very truly yours,

DON E. SPRINGER, Owner and Manager.

POCATELLO, IDAHO, October 26, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
 Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: As a citizen and a taxpayer of the State of Idaho, and one, incidentally who spent several years in the north Idaho area and is therefore quite familiar with that portion of the State, I would like to make a sincere plea that the Government stop its efforts to take Upper Priest Lake in under any so-called wilderness bill with the idea of establishing it as a primitive area.

First of all, Senator, the location of Upper Priest Lake in and of itself suggests that poor judgment certainly has been exercised so far by those who wish to declare it a primitive area. It should be readily recognized, and is by anyone at all familiar with the area, that this small lake lies within 3 or 4 miles of the upper end of Big Priest Lake, on which there are literally hundreds of privately owned cabins, and many, many, campgrounds. The area in question is within but a brief driving time from the population hub of Spokane, Wash., which itself has a population of around 200,000 people. To say that the upper lake represents a primitive area may be likened to declaring Central Park in New York a primitive area simply because there are no buildings located there at the present time.

Another point which should be considered is that this area can be developed better and far cheaper by private ownership than by Government ownership. Private ownership development will not cost the taxpayers anything, whereas Government ownership and an effort on the part of the Government to develop the area, will result in the taxpayers having to pay the entire bill.

A third point to consider, Senator, but certainly no less important is the fact that the State of Idaho and the Federal Government already own the biggest portion of lakeshore property around Upper Priest Lake at the present time. This should be ample area to develop campgrounds, or recreational areas, all without the necessity of proceeding with another Federal land grab by freezing out the private individuals who now own deeded property there.

Acquisition of this lake property by the Government would not increase its usage by the general public in any way. Left in any "primitive" condition, it is accessible only by boat or by horseback and can be used by only those few who are wealthy enough to possess transportation of that type. On the other hand, if the area is developed by private enterprise, housing and service facilities will be built, servicing roads pushed through; all at no cost to the taxpayer, but with the ultimate end that the area will be available to all, even those with a meager income.

I have watched with interest in recent years the efforts being made by the private landowners to develop this area; in fact, I have been for some time negotiating with one of them for some lake front footage. I have, therefore, a personal interest, as well as a general interest in this matter.

There is no doubt that the Government may have the legal right to acquire such property, but the question is, Is there any real justified need for such an acquisition? As one voter, and there are many others just like me, I say "No." Your assistance and the assistance of your constituents in defeating this measure is sincerely sought.

Very truly yours,

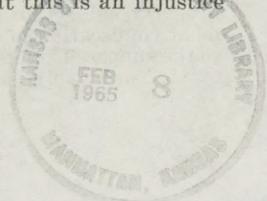
GEORGE S. NEWBERRY.

DON McINNIS AGENCY,
 Priest River, Idaho, October 31, 1964.

Hon. Senator ALAN BIBLE,
 Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to you regarding the privately owned lands on Little Priest Lake.

It is my feeling that the State of Idaho and the Federal Government already own a good share of the land in Bonner County and throughout the State of Idaho. I cannot see why our tax dollar should be spent for the Government acquiring more land, thereby taking it off the tax rolls. I believe that this is an injustice to all of us.



I am acquainted with the area in question and I cannot see what possible harm would be done by allowing private enterprise to develop these lands thereby creating more tax dollars which we are in need of here in Bonner County.

I believe that condemnation of lands where it will benefit many people is permissible, but to spend so much to benefit a very few is wasteful spending.

Respectfully,

DONALD H. McINNIS.

SPokane, WASH., October 28, 1964.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: I see no necessity for the acquisition of private property on Priest Lake, as the Government owns 85 percent of the land already. I see no reason for the Government to take more of the taxpayers' dollars to spend in places like that when it could be put to much better use, and besides it is putting some people out of their homes.

I am sure the people up there feel as I do.

Yours truly,

MARY BORTHWICK.

LEWISTON, IDAHO, October 25, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am not sure I am directing my letter of objection to the proper party or department, but from what I was able to find out, your department would be the proper department to which to direct my complaint.

In a recent article, I read that the Federal Government is presently seeking to condemn substantial areas of privately owned land in scenic parts of Idaho for creation of public recreational areas. I would presume that condemnation of these areas would involve rather substantial payments to the owners of these lands. As a taxpayer, I certainly cannot see why the Federal Government should use tax dollars in the purchase of these lands, especially in view of the frequently mentioned growing national debt, and more particularly because the greater portion of the land in Idaho is already in control of the Government. What is the need of the Government's expenditure of more money to obtain land when it is already in control of enough to effect any purpose which it might have, recreational or otherwise?

In the past 2 years, I have heard mention of Government acquisition of privately owned land here in central Idaho and also in northern Idaho. There was a recent article stating that condemnation was planned on Upper Priest Lake in northern Idaho, and I have heard of similar proposals in the forested areas of Idaho County. Four years ago I and my family vacationed on Lower Priest Lake. I found that the only way that access could be made to Upper Priest Lake at that time was through use of a fairly high powered, expensive type of water craft which is certainly not within the means of the average citizen. Why, then, should the average taxpayer be taxed to provide federally owned recreation areas for those who already have means for access to these areas? If the Government is going to spend my tax dollars to provide recreation areas, I think they should spend them where I and the rest of the average taxpayers can derive some benefit.

You know, Senator BIBLE, it is increasingly a source of consternation to me to see the Federal Government projecting itself into almost every type of activity and enterprise, without invitation and often at the express objection of the citizens themselves. I was always taught that the private enterprise system was the foundation of our country and political system, but I am beginning to wonder. I believe that most of our stable economy is based on private enterprise, and I see no reason why it could not function just as successfully in development of recreational areas. I am not fully informed as to how the owners of the property subject to condemnation feel, but it would seem to me that Government confiscation of property over their objections would leave little substance to the supposed rights of private ownership.

Yours truly,

ROBERT W. DEYOUNG.

MOSCOW, IDAHO,
October 30, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: There is a movement under consideration to have the Federal Government condemn certain privately owned land on Upper Priest Lake in Idaho. I do not feel that this privately owned land should be condemned for these reasons:

- (1) The land would be removed from the tax rolls in the State.
 - (2) This lake is not used by the general public to any extent.
 - (3) It cannot be called a primitive area because of its accessibility to large cities and highways.
 - (4) A vast majority of the land in our State is already owned and controlled by either the State government or the Federal Government.
- Thank you for considering my opinion.

Yours truly,

R. J. STROBEL, M.D.

SPOKANE, WASH.,
October 21, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: My understanding is some private property at Upper Priest Lake may be taken over by the Federal Government for recreational purposes. Wherein these people have had that property for so many years I think that would be an injustice, and besides I am not in favor of the U.S. Government taking over everything.

Yours truly,

THERESA HART.

SPOKANE, WASH.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Office Building, Washington D.C.

DEAR SIR: I do believe that the shorelines of lakes, creeks, and the oceans should belong to the public for use and enjoyment of all. This problem should have been that of years ago before this land was sold so freely. People bought shoreline property at Priest Lake, Idaho, in good faith, that this land will be their homes or a place they might come to be away from the crowds of the city, and be in the quiet beauty of the mountains, and lake and nearer to God.

Many sacrificed and worked hard to gain possession of such land at Priest Lake. This should not be taken from them. At the time they bought land their was no thought of our country every having a shortage of shoreline. Our Government now should keep in its control all its land it owns and all land the citizen is willing to sell along our lakes, rivers, streams, and ocean for the use of the many families that want to enjoy God's great gift, nature. Our government should not force people to sell their lands. This is a land of freedom.

Yours truly,

Mrs. WM. M. HRYCENKO.

PRIEST RIVER, IDAHO, October 31, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I have been a resident of Priest River for approximately 50 years. I have seen a great many changes take place. Many of these changes were the result of the normal growth and expansion of the locality. Others were brought about by the construction of Government facilities, such as power dams and forest service installations and campgrounds.

Now we are faced with the development of the Upper Priest Lake land as a Federal project. The landowners are threatened with condemnation should they not agree to sell their tracts. Is it necessary to take these few acres from individuals when the Federal Government already owns thousands of acres in the Priest Lake area? These few acres could accommodate only a few hundred persons each year during the vacation months as compared with the thousands of

persons who visit the national parks each year. The Federal Government should not spend taxpayer's money to purchase more land. This money could be spent to a better advantage by creating a park or campgrounds using land already owned. My husband served as an Idaho State senator, and I know he would have opposed this type of spending of public funds. I recommend the Federal Government use a little of the economy we are forced to use in our daily lives.

Very truly yours,

ELLEN BLAIR,
(Mrs. Garrison G. Blair).

To Whom It May Concern:

It has always been the belief of my family and my forebears that our beautiful State of Idaho is in the care of the State and U.S. Government to administer wise and just laws for us to follow.

The beauty of the Upper Priest Lake area has been our pride and joy—fishing, hunting, and swimming and the great peace of the country has been our recreation.

We paid taxes for many years, never dreaming that we might some day lose the right to cultivate and improve our land as we saw fit—and to use the sacred right of private ownership.

My husband, Garrison G. Blair, was senator from Bonner County, Idaho, and were he here now I know he would protest the taking over the Upper Priest Lake area for recreational purposes.

Mrs. GARRISON G. BLAIR.

MARTINSON & GALE,
Moscow, Idaho, November 2, 1964.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I have discussed recently with Mr. Don Gumaer the proposal which is being advanced by some who would convert the Upper Priest Lake area in the State of Idaho into a wilderness or primitive area. I assume that this would mean the condemnation of private land and the addition of more lands in Idaho to public ownership.

I am acquainted with the fact that Mr. Gumaer has done a good deal of development planning on his land on Upper Priest Lake and that he has had part of his land surveyed and platted into cottage-site lots. I am naturally concerned with any proposal which would involve the taking of a man's property by the Government and am amazed at the proposal to label land in the area involved as "primitive" or "wilderness" area.

The area around Upper Priest Lake is not a primitive area. It is about a 2-hour drive by automobile from Spokane, Wash., and less than a half hour away by private plane. When fishing on the lake, we have found it to be a rather busy place. The east side of the lower lake is well populated with cottages and resorts.

It is my understanding that the greater percentage of the land on Upper Priest Lake is now owned by the Federal and State governments. These lands have yet to be developed, for recreational purposes, and could be. If they are developed, I would respectfully submit that they should be developed into campsites with access roads so that they can be enjoyed by the public at large instead of by the few who can afford the luxury of the so-called primitive areas.

It is well known and often discussed in Idaho that the Federal Government now owns a too large share of the land in the State. Our tax base is limited and there is a great need for sources of taxation. Our local governmental bodies operate on a shoestring, and our schools are hard pressed for funds. We need more private ownership and development and less Government ownership. The taking of more land from our tax rolls complicates our problems; and, of course, Government payments in lieu of taxation solve nothing. The moneys still come from taxation.

I am sure that few, if any, of the citizens of our Nation would seriously and honestly question the fact that the initiative and sweat from the brow of the individual has been the cornerstone of our Nation. Yet I sense that there is a

lack of appreciation and appraisal of the fact that the citizen gets nothing free; that it is the moneys of the individual citizen which comprise the Government pool of funds. I respectfully submit that it is reasonable and proper that Upper Priest Lake be developed by private interests and the Government jointly, each developing the land it owns; and that the private individual be permitted to develop his land without interference from the Government.

Respectfully submitted.

LLOYD G. MARTINSON.

NOVEMBER 1, 1964.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to urge your support in behalf of private property owners on Upper Priest Lake in the State of Idaho in the proposed acquisition of their land by the Government for recreational purposes.

While Upper Priest Lake is not easily accessible to the general public, still it is not a primitive area in the true sense, as it is only about 20 minutes by boat from the lower lake where lots have been leased along the east side by the State and all of these lots are on the REA powerlines. During the summer there are many powerboats on the upper lake, fishing, and water skiing. It is only 20 minutes flying time in a light plane from Spokane, Wash., with its population of 200,000. Too, an access for logging road is being developed 3½ miles from the head of Upper Priest Lake. This road will connect with the Canadian Transcontinental Highway.

The private property on Upper Priest Lake is deeded land that should be conveyed or developed and, as such, would mean higher taxes for the county and State for the benefit of education, etc. To take this property off the tax rolls will mean that the State and county will have to look elsewhere for funds.

As only the comparative few with high-powered boats can now enjoy the Upper Priest Lake area, it still would be this same comparative few who would continue to enjoy it after the expenditure of public funds by the Government to acquire it—not the general public who should be the ones to benefit from the expenditure of public money.

I thank you for your consideration of these reasons against this proposed Government action and trust you will give this matter your serious attention.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

H. TURNER DAVIS.

PRIEST RIVER, IDAHO,
November 2, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: In reference to the condemnation of private property in the Upper Priest Lake area, it looks to me as if the Government has enough land of their own without condemning the little amount of private property that is owned in this area. This is supposedly a country of free enterprise. It looks as if a citizen should be able to own property without the Government stepping in to condemn it and spend our money when and where they have enough land of their own. It seems that the Government is getting involved in everything that is done, whether small or large, which doesn't leave us much freedom left.

The Upper Priest Lake area has never been used by the general public as a recreation area. The timber stumpage is being sold by the Government to the general public to log it off, so they aren't trying to keep it a primitive area.

Hoping you will take thought on this before condemning any more private land.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT J. CHAPPELL, *Logging & Pole Co.*

BALBOA, CALIF., *November 8, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Senate Office Building,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: I am one of whom is among the great majority of the people that are strictly opposed to the State or Government taking over privately owned property on Upper Priest Lake, Idaho, for recreational purposes.

My father was one of the early pioneers of Priest Lake and started one of the first resorts in that area. And I know of the many hardships he encountered during those years.

I still take frequent trips to that part of the country—as I have many friends who are permanent residents of Priest Lake, and have invested their life's savings into property there. And I understand there are thousands of acres owned by the State or Federal Government that can be used for recreational purposes without disturbing the privately owned property.

Hoping you will give this your utmost consideration.

Very truly yours,

MRS. MYRTLE E. SMITH.

SPokane, WASH., *October 22, 1964.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I for one am against the State taking over the private property on Upper Priest Lake.

I think after some of the people have had the property for 40 years and more they should be entitled to keep it.

There are only a few people that can go up to the upper lake now, as it takes so long and I can't see how it would help for the State to take over.

If you want to develop the land, let the people that own the land do it and make the profit. I hope you vote to let the people keep the land.

Very truly yours,

MRS. RICHARDSON.

[From the Lewiston (Idaho) Morning Tribune]

UPPER PRIEST PROPOSAL GETS FEW OBJECTIONS

NORDMAN, IDAHO.—A Senate subcommittee holding hearings on preservation of Upper Priest Lake in its natural state encountered few objections to the proposal Thursday.

But some of those testifying at the hearings at Hill's Resort on Luby Bay near here had reservations about the means to be used.

The hearing was held by a Senate Public Lands Subcommittee headed by Senator Alan Bible, Democrat, of Nevada, and includes Senator Len B. Jordan, Republican, of Idaho. Also attending were Senator Frank Church, Democrat, of Idaho, and Representative Compton I. White, Democrat, of Idaho.

White said he favored the proposed legislation, but expressed personal misgivings about the means to be used, which he said would be exercise of eminent domain to buy three plots on the small lake which now are owned privately.

LUMBERING VITAL

Area lumberman, Leonard Luby, said he personally wanted to keep the lake as it is. But he said his sentimental reasons must be balanced against the fact that lumbering is a major industry in the area.

Lee White, a former Priest River ranger, praised the proposed legislation, but said removal of land from tax rolls through Government ownership should stop somewhere.

Senator Bible said the hearing was a preliminary to congressional action next year. Senator Church said that authorization legislation which he has already introduced must be passed if the privately owned property is to be purchased and included in the Kaniksu National Forest.

About 4,400 feet of lake frontage along the southeast corner of Upper Priest is owned by three Spokane men who have said they intended to subdivide the property if a way can't be found for a governmental agency to purchase it from them.

Rainy weather scuttled plans for an official party to fly over Upper Priest before the hearing.

The subcommittee moves to Lewiston Friday for hearings on the proposed Nez Perce National Historical Park.

SPOKANE, WASH., November 4, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Although I have strongly supported most Federal projects involving land reclamation and forest preserves, I object to the proposed plan concerning Upper Priest Lake in Idaho. I believe that Federal money should be used for the benefit of many people and I cannot see any justification for spending huge sums of money for the few who would profit from such an action.

By removing more and more private property from the tax rolls, we compound the financial difficulties of county and State, and you are, I know, well aware of the fact that Idaho has serious problems in this area.

In my opinion, the State and Federal Government already own ample property which can be developed for recreational purposes when and if the need arises.

I would appreciate your consideration of my views before final action is taken in this matter.

Yours truly,

W. H. WHITE.

SPOKANE, WASH., October 30, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Senate Committee of the Interior,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: It has come to my attention that you are spearheading the drive to condemn private property on Upper Priest Lake in northern Idaho.

It is not clear to me whether your intention is to maintain the entire upper lake in its present undeveloped state so that our posterity may view it as we do or whether your intention is for the Federal Government to go in and develop the land themselves. In either event I believe most definitely that your efforts are misguided.

In the first place to "view it in its present undeveloped state" can sometimes be like viewing a garbage dump. On any given weekend during the summer you will find dozens of tent campers on Upper Priest. For the most part they pitch their tents close to one another and upon departure they leave garbage, paper plates, paper napkins, tin cans, etc., all over the shoreline. If you leave it in its natural state there will always be a problem, as mentioned above, and it will continue to get worse. I have been making several trips every summer by boat to Upper Priest. During the 8 years I have been doing this the boat traffic has increased immensely. It will continue to increase simply because more and more people every year are buying boats. In other words, you can't maintain it in its natural state because the place is already being overrun by boaters.

In the second place, I do not feel it is the right of the Federal (or State) Government to condemn private property so that the Federal Government can develop the property when the private landowners are willing and able to do the developing. As it now stands the Government owns most of the shoreline on Upper Priest where they can put in facilities for campers, etc. So there is no necessity of condemning private property.

Upper Priest is in such close proximity to developed property (there is a hamburger stand—actually a boat drive-in—on the bank of the thoroughfare which is the short channel between the upper and lower lake) and large population (metropolitan Spokane area, 200,000 people, is only 70 miles away) that it would be impossible to maintain its natural beauty in the upper lake area. It therefore is reaching a point, and will become acutely more so with each passing year, that some logical development take place.

I am 100 percent in favor of those deeded property owners developing their land as they deem best, whether it be for homesites or as a public resort area. As I understand it both such developments are being contemplated at this time. Since the deeded property owners actually own a minority of the property the Government could then develop facilities for campers, hikers, etc., on their own property which I believe they should do.

I am not a property owner on Upper Priest or anywhere else in Idaho. All I can afford to do is go tent camping and I am lucky because my family enjoys it as much as I do. However, there are many (probably the majority) who do not like to rough it and they will never enjoy Upper Priest unless there is some accommodation available to them. They have as much right to enjoy it as we tent campers have and so I can see a definite need for various types of development.

I respectfully submit to you sir that my comments represent the thoughts of the majority of my friends who also make yearly trips to Upper Priest and we request that you abandon your efforts to condemn private property. May we suggest instead that some effort be put into developing tent campsites on property already owned by the Government.

Respectfully yours,

K. O. ROBERTS.

SPOKANE, WASH., *October 23, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am writing stating that I am against the Government trying to acquire property on Upper Priest Lake as a State or Government department already owns most of the property on Upper Priest as well as in the State of Idaho.

For the Government to acquire the property will mean the use of public funds that could be still well used in other public places such as education. This property can only be used by a few who have boats or planes to get there and not by the general public.

If this private property is acquired by the Government money is taken from the tax rolls.

Since employment is always a factor, it will take several people to develop the property plus additional people to operate any development.

There is nothing primitive of this area as it is a comparatively short distance from Spokane, a city of nearly 200,000 population, near well-populated cabin and resort areas and within 3½ miles of a good access road.

If this property remains in private ownership, it will not interfere with the public using the lake as they are now, and I can see no reason to spend any public money on acquisition of this property.

Sincerely yours,

P. A. BIDWELL.

SPOKANE, WASH., *November 4, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I view the proposed action regarding Upper Priest Lake in Idaho as further evidence of increasing Federal control in every aspect of our lives. I hope you agree with me that individual enterprise has been and should remain the backbone of American strength. When Federal intervention is necessary, I wholeheartedly support it, but this is not necessary. It is not a wilderness area even now, and with the increasing number of high-powered boats and private planes it will become even less primitive.

This is reminiscent of the Sand Point ski area affair in which private enterprise was dealt the death blow by Federal intervention. Is it no longer possible in America for individuals to succeed or fail in their own ventures? Upper Priest Lake cannot remain a wilderness area in any event. If it is to be developed as a public recreational area, why not let private interest foot the bill?

Yours truly,

MARYON K. WHITE.

KANIKSU TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT,
 Priest River, Idaho, November 10, 1964.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am writing in regard to the proposed purchase of private land surrounding Upper Priest Lake in Bonner County, Idaho.

It is my feeling that it is very worthwhile to preserve this lake in its natural state.

However, I am against this land being taken from our tax rolls in Bonner County, as nearly 80 percent of the land in this county is now public owned. For this reason I believe a trade for property on the lower lake or other property of equal value should be considered. If a trade is not possible then a private treaty purchase should be made. In any case I am very much against this property being taken by condemnation.

I would appreciate you giving this some consideration.

Sincerely,

FRANK H. ANSELMO, JR.

PEWAUKEE, WIS., November 9, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
 Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: It has recently come to my attention that there is a bill under consideration which would result in condemnation of private property on Upper Priest Lake, Idaho. As a former resident of the area, I wish to voice my opinion in this matter.

I believe that it is unnecessary for the U.S. Government to condemn this property. Public recreational purposes can be adequately developed in those areas already owned by the State or Federal Government without acquiring private property. This is especially true since the largest percentage of the land is already owned by the Government. Also, only a few people would benefit from the condemnation of this property. I feel that the property owners in that area should be free to develop their land as they wish.

I sincerely hope that you and your committee will consider the seriousness of condemning private property without there being a demonstration of a real benefit to the general public.

Sincerely,

Mrs. GEORGE M. LANGE.

PRIEST RIVER, IDAHO, October 30, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
 Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
 Senate Office Building,
 Washington, D.C.

HONORABLE SENATOR: I have been following with interest the procedure of events relative to the acquisition by the Federal Government of the Upper Priest Lake private land. This situation causes one to pause and wonder just how safe and secure private ownership is in this land of ours.

This area is being classified as a primitive area. Within 3½ miles of the lake a road connecting with the Canadian Transcontinental Highway is presently under construction. The Upper Priest Lake is only 15 to 20 minutes by boat from Priest Lake. Priest Lake is lined with summer homes and certainly is not in any sense primitive, since many people live there the year around. Also, Priest Lake is only 20 minutes air travel time from the metropolitan city of Spokane.

It is common knowledge that the larger percentage of land in Idaho is owned by either the State or the Federal Government. Much of this land is more primitive than the site on Upper Priest Lake, for example the Sawtooth or Clear-water areas in central Idaho. Why should a large sum of taxpayer's money be spent to purchase land for public use, when the Federal Government already owns vast tracts in still more primitive areas? Why take privately owned lands from local tax rolls?

Let us leave Upper Priest Lake as it is. Let us allow it to develop in a normal manner under free enterprise.

Sincerely yours,

MARTHA J. WONCH.

SPOKANE, WASH., *October 29, 1964.*

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I wish to say I lived in the Priest Lake area for some 30 years and paid taxes for a good part of that time.

I think the Upper Priest Lake area should be left as it is now, with those who have private property to keep it, and do as they want to with it.

They have paid taxes on same for many years and will go on doing so, which helps the State of Idaho.

I think the State and Federal Government holds enough land for primitive area as is, and should let the private parties have theirs as is.

If closed to primitive area there will be some who will still get through by trail or logging roads. Why not let all share alike and pay taxes if they own property?

Yours truly,

JOY M. BLONK.

SPOKANE, WASH., *October 29, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: This letter is written to protest the proposed acquisition of private lands around Upper Priest Lake, specifically, and other similar lands in general, for the purpose of making them into primitive areas.

Although we own no land in that vicinity we feel that the taking over of private land by the Federal Government is an unjustified encroachment on the rights of private property owners. Too, it would take property off the tax rolls.

If this trend continues private ownership will soon be a thing of the past. That is socialism.

Yours very truly,

D. L. KIRK.
 FLORENCE M. KIRK.

THE BON MARCHE,
Spokane, Wash., October 27, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: As a taxpayer of many years in both Washington and Idaho, I am against the State or Government taking over "privately owned property."

Have had my own place of Lake Pend Orielle for many years. I bought it so I could use it and enjoy it.

And furthermore, am against the acquisition of private property on Upper Priest Lake in the State of Idaho. The largest percentage of land there is either owned by the State or Federal Government, and in my opinion there is no need to acquire private land with Federal funds for recreational purposes. Our taxes are high enough now.

Very truly yours,

GLEN BASLINGTON.

SPOKANE, WASH., *November 4, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. BIBLE: In regards to the Federal Government acquiring the private land on Upper Priest Lake, I definitely protest against it. I think these people—private owners—after owning this land for over 40 years, should be able to keep their own property.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. FANNIE B. HAINES.

SPOKANE, WASH., November 2, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
 Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. BIBLE: Being a taxpayer, I definitely protest against the State of Idaho, or the Federal Government taking over any deeded land on Upper Priest Lake.

A taxpayer should think that nothing is free and any money spent by the Government is my money.

Money should go into educational purposes and not for recreation.

After all, this is still America, and I do think private owners should be able to keep their property after owning it for over 40 years.

I sincerely hope private property owners at Upper Priest Lake may keep their property.

Very truly yours,

CLARA P. PETTIBONE.

SPOKANE, WASH., October 29, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
 Chairman, Senate Public Lands Subcommittee,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am concerned over Idaho State and Federal Government wanting private land on Priest Lake, Idaho.

Why Upper Priest Lake for public recreation?

Wouldn't second tier land do just as well?

I have read that the State and Federal Government wants to keep Priest Lake primitive. The east side of Priest Lake shows total disregard for this.

Have you seen primitive land a few years after it has been open to the public? There is much destruction to natural beauty and a rapid wearing away of the forest. I have been on Priest Lake for 30 years and I am shocked at how little some of the public campgrounds are used. The only time this year that Outlet Bay campground was in full use was July 4.

It frightens me to think the State or Government could take deeded ground at will.

The State and Government has most of Priest Lake; they should be satisfied. Those who have private land should be permitted to keep it without harassment.

Sincerely,

RUTH HUME.

ROUSE-DUCHOW MOTORS,
 Spokane, Wash., November 5, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
 Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
 Senate Office Building,
 Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: It has been brought to my attention that the Federal Government is considering acquiring additional property on Upper Priest Lake in north Idaho for the purpose of a primitive area.

I have been in business for many years and my main recreational pursuit is fly fishing and I have traveled over much of the Northwest and some parts of Canada fishing. I will also agree that the Priest Lake area is very beautiful, but, as a sportsman object to the further acquisition of private property by the Federal Government for the following reasons.

(1) The upper lake is not for the use of the general public, it is only for the use of those that have boats or planes that can get up to the lake.

(2) As a businessman for many years object to Government interference with private ownership of land on the Upper Priest Lake, as I firmly believe that private enterprise is the backbone of our Nation and this private land should be developed by private money and not by Government spending. To take this property from the tax rolls would mean that this tax money would have to come from some other source.

(3) In the State of Idaho the greater percentage of the land is either owned by the State or Federal Government and there is a lot of Federal Government or State-owned land that can be developed without the further acquisition of private property.

(4) After spending considerable time in the Priest Lake area cannot see anyway that this upper lake can be considered as a primitive area with all of the building and commercial use on the lower lake which is only a short boat trip from the upper lake.

Very truly yours,

HOMER ROUSE,
Owner-Manager.

RUNJE'S WASHINGTON SERVICE STATION,
Spokane, Wash., November 4, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I have followed the acquisition of private property on Upper Priest Lake in north Idaho with mixed emotions. I say mixed emotions because I am a fisherman and also a businessman.

Of course I would like to have the fishing as it was in this area 40 years ago and at that time it was easy to get your limit of fish and there was a lot of area to go fishing in. Over the years this area has gradually depleted until now it is quite a drive before you can do any fishing.

However, that is one of the prices that a person must pay for progress, because along with this depletion of the good fishing areas there has been improved roads and transportation. There is also more leisure time which completes the circle where one can go fishing.

I firmly believe that the Federal Government should not interfere with private property and private business. If the Federal Government can continue to interfere with private property and private business little by little where does it stop.

In the case of Upper Priest Lake private property I prefer to have it remain in private ownership without Government interference.

Very truly yours,

M. R. RUNJE.

ST. MARIES, IDAHO, *November 9, 1964.*

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Being a former resident of the Priest Lake, Idaho country, I would dislike very much having private property taken over by the Federal Government as a wilderness area and thus taken off the tax rolls leaving an added tax to be paid by the remaining taxpayers.

It appears to be unfair to private parties and I trust you will give the matter careful thought before this part of the country is declared a wilderness.

Very truly yours,

RALPH E. WESSA.

HAYDEN LAKE, IDAHO, *November 11, 1964.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Senate Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: We are two Maryland-born nature lovers, mountain climbers, and conservationists who moved to Idaho 8 years ago to enjoy the uncrowded out-of-doors daily instead of occasionally. We who saw the beaches and woodlands and high points we knew in our younger days succumb to commercialism, population expansion, or "megalopolis" unless protected (often belatedly and hence at greater cost to the taxpayers) urge you and your committee to prepare the legislation necessary to preserve Upper Priest Lake in northern Idaho in its present unspoiled state. As members or former mem-

bers of the Mountain Club of Maryland, the Appalachian Trail Conference, the Adirondack Mountain Club, and the Wilderness Society we know what unspoiled wilderness does to renew the city dweller on weekends and on vacation.

By the year 2000 there will be more city dwellers, more leisure, and less wilderness unless State and Federal Governments act now. May we also point out that action now will cost less while western land values are relatively cheap? We suggest the use of eminent domain and "friendly confiscation"—as the hearings brought out. Recreation is as important to the public interest as superhighways and railroad right-of-way.

May we also point out as parents of schoolchildren who have struggled with bond elections in northern Idaho that Idaho is a poor State in tax resources through rich in wilderness beauty. The legislators and taxpayers of Boundary County are understandably concerned by the withdrawal of this taxable land from the county rolls. Doubtless your committee will take this into consideration; doubtless you recall that 68 percent of Idaho is publicly owned and non-taxable, a percentage even higher than Alaska. Idaho schools rank 42d in the Nation in expenditure per schoolchild. So parenthetically we ask you to remember this both for the children of your own State and of Idaho when Federal aid to education again comes before the Congress in the next session.

Sincerely yours,

OSBORNE O. and FRANCES S. HEARD.

BILLINGS, MONT.,
October 31, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I was just advised that a Senate subcommittee had met on October 8, 1964, and it was recommended that all private property on Upper Priest Lake in Idaho be condemned and the U.S. Government take over and make it into a primitive area.

I do not feel there is any necessity for acquisition of private property in this area. This area is not, nor could it be, primitive as there is presently a road going in within 3½ miles of the Upper Priest Lake that will connect up with the Canadian Transcontinental Highway. Upper Priest Lake is connected by narrows to lower Priest Lake and boats can go in 15 minutes from one lake to the other.

The private property on Upper Priest Lake is deeded land. These property owners should have the opportunity to develop this property, thereby increasing value and tax revenue to the State. Whereas if the U.S. Government takes this property over all property holders will be taxed.

We have developed a great country because of individual enterprise. Therefore, let Upper Priest Lake property owners develop their interests, win or lose on their own—without Government condemnation or intervention.

Sincerely,

RAY OLSON.

SPOKANE, WASH., November 10, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE:

I was born and raised in the Priest Lake area, and my parents were taxpayers there many years.

I see no necessity for acquisition of the private land on Upper Priest Lake in the State of Idaho. The largest percentage of the land is owned by the State and Federal Government and I see no need to spend money from Government funds to buy more. As far as I can see the Upper Priest Lake is not used by the general public; if the Government took over the lake would still be used only by a few as it takes a good boat to get there and most people don't have that, so why spend money from Government funds to buy more land, and besides the Government would lose tax money from these private people who have paid taxes for some 40 years.

I would say let them develop their own holding and pay more taxes.

Sincerely,

Mrs. A. D. VIETZKE.

SPOKANE, WASH., November 12, 1964.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Senate Interior Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I wish to protest against the Government taking over the land on Upper Priest Lake in northern Idaho.

It already owns 84 percent and I think it is very unfair that people who have owned land there for years will have to lose it.

Very truly,

Mrs. ROSALIE EGERMAN.

LEWISTON, IDAHO.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: It has come to my attention that condemnation procedures are being considered against private property owners on Upper Priest Lake in the State of Idaho. As a licensed attorney and registered taxpayer of the State of Idaho, I hereby register my protest against this action. I can see not a single factor in favor of such acquisition, when public funds, part of which are derived from my taxes, are used for the purchase of private land, by condemnation procedures or otherwise, when there already exists in the State of Idaho such enormous tracts of State and Federal land badly in need of development. Why isn't this purchase money being spent for development of parks and recreation areas on land already owned by the State and Federal Government, instead of being squandered recklessly in the purchase of more land that will lie as dormant as that already owned, for lack of developmental funds? I have heard no great public outcry to acquire this area for posterity and the citizens of the State of Idaho. Idaho has so much posterity property now that can't be used by the public because it is undeveloped, that it makes me ill to think about it.

I have not mentioned yet the unseemly interference of the Federal Government in private enterprise areas, but this attempted acquisition smacks of such unwarranted interference. At least 50 to 75 percent of the land in the State of Idaho is already owned by the State and Federal Government, and I, for one, do not wish to support, with my tax money, any more undeveloped land when there are already private property owners that are paying taxes on this property and thereby enriching the coffers of the State and county, to help defray the educational program and other worthwhile tax-supported institutions of the State, and removing thereby some of the burdens of taxation from my weary shoulders. Or is this purchase for the purpose, similar to that of the State of Idaho on the lower lake, by the rental of lakeshore lots, of making the Federal Government the same sort of "Big Brother" landlord? This great country, and the individual States thereof, was founded on the principle of private ownership and enterprise and the less government interference, the better.

This is not a primitive area where there are no people for miles around. This is an area close to the Canadian Transcontinental Highway, or where it will be located finally, it is also close to large and small population centers that could provide valuable tourist dollars. There is no question in my mind that private development, such as resort area lot sales and resort housing and facilities, would provide a more permanent, diversified and complete tax base for this area. Such a tax base, far greater than any that would be provided by governmental stockpiling or development, would provide greater tax and income benefits to the public.

Private development of this area would not only supply employment, which is badly needed in this State, but would also bring in tourist dollars, and the consequent population and income increase in this underdeveloped area of the State. Government stockpiling of this area would accomplish none of these results. On the contrary, it would tend to depress the economy of this area more than it is now.

We do not need more land, we need development of what we already have, so we can get to it and use it. We need roads, any roads are better than what we have now in some primitive and wilderness areas, we need campgrounds and park areas, we need maintenance of the developments we already have and further expansion of them. Where will the money come for these things if you spend it in the acquisition of more undeveloped land? Whose idea is it to buy this area? What is the area to be used for? Do the people who advocate the

purchase of this area have any concept of the needs of the citizens and taxpayers and voters of this area or are they just following the dictates of a few high-powered pressure groups or lobbies? Will the governmental use of this land provide anywhere near as much tax income as that possible from private development tax income?

I would greatly appreciate a concise and definitive answer to my questions in this matter and particularly the precise public interest you are serving by this condemnation acquisition of private property. I would appreciate also knowing the names of the other members of your committee in this matter and especially the names of the Idaho members.

Respectfully yours,

OTTO D. PALMER.

PETITION

OCTOBER 7, 1964.

We, the undersigned, are in favor of retaining Upper Priest Lake in its present wild state and are in favor of Government purchase of the private land on the lake.

(The above petition was signed by 87 citizens of the area.)

PETITION

OCTOBER 7, 1964.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

TAXPAYERS' LEAGUE TO HOLD THE LINE ON PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

We, the undersigned, owners of private taxpaying property, are opposed in principle to further acquisition of private land by the State or the Federal Government, but where a common good can be obtained by the acquisition of private land in exchange for public land then we would endorse such an exchange. In this specific case we believe the preservation of the Upper Priest Lake area in its present state is desirable, even though it might mean the acquisition of this private land outside of the forest boundary by the USFS. If the land under consideration should be acquired by negotiated purchase or exchange, we believe it should be at a reasonable price consistent with established value in that area. If it should be acquired by negotiation, we feel the USFS should release and make available for private ownership an equal value of similar lands in this same general area, which we would suggest should be on the west side of the main Priest Lake. This is of particular importance to Bonner County because more than 80 percent of the county's land is in public ownership and we deem it essential that there be no further erosion of the tax base.

We are unanimously and unalterably opposed under any circumstances to acquisition of the lands in question by condemnation.

(The above petition carried 110 signatures.)

SANDPOINT, IDAHO, October 22, 1964.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Enclosed is clipping of a column currently appearing in a group of north Idaho newspapers. It deals with the situation of private and public land ownership here in Bonner County, where it is proposed to purchase privately owned lands on Upper Priest Lake and add them to the Kaniksu National Forest.

I respectfully emphasize the need for either an exchange to acquire the lake-shore lands, or for a release by the Forest Service of similar lands of equal value, such lands now being available on the main Priest Lake. The enclosed column points out how much publicly owned waterfront there is in Bonner County.

It is certainly not beyond the realm of possibility that this county is the most fortunately situated in the United States in his respect.

Respectfully,

JIM PARSONS.

[Enclosure]

OUTDOOR NOTEBOOK

(By Jim Pearsons)

It was no surprise that little opposition was expressed at the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee hearing October 8 on the proposal to buy the privately owned portion of the Upper Priest Lake shoreline and add it to the Kaniksu National Forest.

Two significant things developed at the hearing. One was extent of the expressions of misgiving about employing condemnation to acquire the land. The second was the concern evidenced about further shrinking the tax base in a county already more than 80 percent public owned.

Many citizens subscribed to a suggestion that the shoreline properties be acquired by exchange. Failing this, they proposed that the Forest Service release and make available for private ownership similar lands of equal value in the same general area. Such national forest lands exist on the west side of Priest Lake.

It was a foregone conclusion such an approach would be unpalatable to the Forest Service. Like other public agencies, its escutcheon is emblazoned with a motto which freely translates to enlarge, expand, grow bigger.

Regional Forester Rahm shot down the suggestion by saying it is Forest Service policy to retain its lands along the shores of lakes and rivers for public access and not to release them for private use.

There is no quarrel with this. However, the question arises, when did the agency take over from the public the authority to decide how much land, fronting on water or otherwise, should or should not be included in national forests. It is the business of Congress, representing the people, and not a Federal bureau to decide whether or not similar lands equal in value to those on Upper Priest Lake should be returned to private ownership and the tax rolls.

The fact is that in Bonner County—where the Priest Lakes are located—there are vast stretches of public-owned shoreline on lakes and streams.

Approximately half of the total shoreline of the two Priest Lakes is national forest, and most of the remainder is State-owned land. In the same county, many miles of Lake Pend Oreille's shoreline are national forest, with various areas long since earmarked for eventual public recreational development. Many small lakes are partly or completely encircled by national forest lands. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of miles of streams in the Priest, Pend Oreille, and Kootenai River drainages which are within national forest boundaries.

The huge former Farragut Naval Base is being transformed into a highly developed State park which will be available for public use following the 1965 Senior Girl Scout Roundup. Governor Smylie has predicted it will be "the finest public park between Glacier and Rainier."

Also, it is little known that besides national forest lands around the Pend Oreille Reservoir area, the Corps of Army Engineers lists 20 public areas totaling 3,957 acres. Some of this acreage is below the 2,062.5-foot high water level and 9 of the 20 are game management units. Some of the others, such as Albeni Cove, Springy Point, Riley Creek, and Priest River Camp, are highly developed campground and recreational areas.

So it is not as if there was only meager public water access in this portion of north Idaho. On the contrary, there is so much that the overriding question becomes how to halt any further transfer of lands from private to public ownership. This is not just the concern of the people of Bonner County. Citizens who feel that the problem of preserving Upper Priest Lake can be fairly and equitably solved by land exchange or releasing Kaniksu National Forest lands of equal value to private ownership should express their view in writing to Hon. Alan Bible, chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., and request that it be entered in the hearing record.

