DIGEST OF REMARKS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
JOHN A. CARVER, JR., AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON,  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, BEFORE THE 117TH MEETING OF THE COLUMBIA  
basin Inter-Agency Committee  

Outdoor recreation's economic benefits are becoming more important daily but they can't provide a panacea for every kind of economic dislocation, Assistant Secretary of the Interior John A. Carver, Jr., cautioned today in explaining the responsibilities of the new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in his Department.

He spoke at the 117th meeting of the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee. The session was held at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Under proposals now pending in Congress, the new Bureau would administer grants to States for recreation planning, said Carver, who has general supervision over the new recreation agency.

He reviewed the findings of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission which recommended creation of the bureau and explained its relationships with the National Park Service, other bureaus of the Interior Department, and its coordinating function with other Federal agencies concerned with outdoor recreation.

Mr. Carver outlined the variety of recreational opportunities in the Pacific Northwest in which the Federal Government plays a developmental or management role.
They include national parks and national forests, reclamation and flood control reservoirs, fish and wildlife habitat and propagation, management of public lands for wildlife and other recreational activities, Coast Guard water safety programs, access road programs and many others," he said. "All of them emphasize that the Pacific Northwest has a wealth of the resource called recreational opportunity.

"The Congress, the Executive Branch and the conservation organizations of the Nation are 'zeroed-in' on recreation now because the ORRRC report of last January gave us all at last a reference point, a benchmark of conservation in this field.

"The Interior Department is trying to do everything it can under existing authority to respond to this widespread public and private interest," Mr. Carver continued. "So are the other Executive departments. And the President has set up the machinery to see that the effort is accomplished in a coordinated and economical fashion."

Mr. Carver said President Kennedy's Executive Order 11017 of May 1 established a Recreation Advisory Council composed of five Cabinet level officials.

"This council is to provide policy advice to the heads of Federal agencies on matters affecting outdoor recreation resources, with respect among other things to the management of Federal lands for the broadest possible recreation benefit consistent with other essential uses, management and improvement of fish and wildlife resources for recreational purposes, and cooperation and assistance with State and local governments."

The new Bureau will be available to service the Council, Mr. Carver said.
"The effort must be a unified one," he continued. "Here in the West where there is such a large percentage of public land, the emphasis seems to be on the Federal programs. But on a Nationwide basis the big job lies with the States."

He emphasized that "the new Bureau faces extremely difficult tasks. We are fortunate to have for its head Dr. Edward C. Crafts, an experienced administrator who was formerly Assistant Chief of the U. S. Forest Service."

Although recreation cannot solve every economic problem in the country, nevertheless the interest in these resources and their management by State and Federal agencies has assumed almost runaway proportions, Mr. Carver said. There is a mandate for action at every level of Government, but the very number of agencies involved demands that more emphasis be placed on planning, coordination and clear thinking. On the latter point, he said, it is especially important that a sensible perspective be followed in relating recreation to other needs for food, fiber and minerals.

Assistant Secretary Carver also outlined the program for the White House Conference on Conservation which begins in the Nation's Capital on Thursday, the first such meeting in decades. President Kennedy will be the main speaker, and other participants will include the Vice President, all the Cabinet members on the Recreation Advisory Council, Senators and Congressmen, Governors of States, and a number of eminent non-Governmental leaders in the conservation movement.