Statement by Assistant Secretary of the Interior
John A. Carver, Jr. -- re. H.R. 9740 and related bills

Mr. Chairman:

The idea of a binational memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt at Campobello must have been long held by many people who knew of the significance of this place in the shaping of the public life of that great President. Certainly the Broadway play, and subsequent movie, Sunrise at Campobello, made the Canadian location meaningful in the same way as Hyde Park.

However, it was only recently that formal action was undertaken by responsible people. In August 1962 the bridge from Lubec to the Island was completed, and at the dedication there was an expression of the desire to see the Roosevelt "cottage" established as a public park, a memorial to the President, and a memorial symbolizing international peace and good will.

President Kennedy and Prime Minister Pearson met at Hyannisport on May 11, 1963, and following this meeting the possibility of acquisition from the owners, the Hamer family, was determined--not by purchase, but by donation jointly to the two governments. The same month, the 34-room house, its furnishings, outbuildings, and 20 acres of land were offered, the acceptance awaiting the establishment of the legal entity this bill will create.
Legislation in both countries is necessary to comply with the terms of informal agreement worked out and announced by President Johnson and Prime Minister Pearson on January 22, 1964.

The bills before you represent our country's part in this. Its details will be discussed by Assistant Director Montgomery of the Park Service, assisted by Mr. Harrison and Mr. Sigler.

Needless to say, the Department feels proud to recommend this bill as a fitting international memorial. We are glad that the method for operation contemplates the United States share to be handled through the authorizing and appropriating process to the Department and the National Park Service.