

Statement of John A. Carver, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Public Land Management, before the Subcommittee on National Parks, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, February 7, 1963. (Briefing sessions on Public Land Management Bureaus--Bureau of Outdoor Recreation)

BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

When the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was established and placed under my supervision last April, I felt somewhat like the parent of several grown-up children who finds himself with a new baby. It wasn't expected, and it has quite different problems from the other children, yet he is very happy to have it and thinks it has a bright future.

We have been most fortunate in having Ed Crafts as the Director of the new Bureau. He brings to this difficult assignment all the knowledge and experience he gained from 30 years in the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, including 11 as Assistant Chief. In view of the need for effective cooperation with Agriculture, Mr. Crafts' background in that Department is particularly helpful.

I have worked very closely with Director Crafts during the last ten months in connection with the inevitable problems that accompany the birth of an entirely new organization. Since the establishment of the Bureau involved the transfer of functions, funds, and personnel from the National Park Service, which is also under my jurisdiction, I was, of course, responsible for seeing that the transfer was made as smoothly as possible. I felt that the new Bureau should have a free hand in selecting its employees and that the employees themselves should also have a voice in deciding whether or not they transferred. I am happy to say that it has worked out as I had hoped.

This is an appropriate time to emphasize that while there is a close relationship between the Bureau and the Service, their respective missions are separate and distinct. I have, therefore, taken pains to assure that the division of responsibility between them is properly defined. Although there have been some gray areas, I am satisfied that there is now a good working relationship and am gratified by the desire of the staff of both agencies to work together toward our common objective.

Basically, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as a planning, coordinating, and research agency, has taken over the broad planning and technical assistance functions formerly carried out by the Park Service. It is concerned with the whole spectrum of outdoor recreation of which parks are only segment--though an important segment. It is not a land-management agency. The National Park Service, on the other hand, is a major

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land-management organization. It has a tremendous responsibility in operating the far-flung National Park System. It has also quite properly retained the responsibility for planning any proposed additions to the System. Such proposals would, of course, be reviewed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in connection with its over-all planning responsibility, just as would be the recreation proposals of the other agencies both inside and outside the Department of the Interior.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation fulfills a need which has long been developing. The Bureau is in position to help coordinate our various Federal responsibilities in outdoor recreation and to supply the stimulation and assistance the States need if they are to carry their proper share of outdoor recreation responsibilities. I shall leave it to Ed Crafts when he speaks, to provide details and specifics you will want to know.

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