

**The original documents are located in Box 62, folder “1976/09/28 - Land and Water Conservation Fund Amendments Signing Ceremony” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

When you announced your Bicentennial Land Heritage Program, you alluded to the use of an expanded Land and Water Conservation Fund as one of the means to reach the goals of the acquisition program.

SIGNING CEREMONY

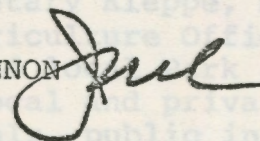
S. 327 - LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AMENDMENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1976

11:30 A.M.

THE ROSE GARDEN

FROM: JAMES M. CANNON



I. PURPOSE

To highlight your approval of amendments to the Land and Water Conservation Fund - S. 327.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background - The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been a very popular and successful program, enabling the Federal Government and the States to acquire recreation lands.

These amendments would:

- Increase funding authorization from a current level of \$300 million annually to \$600 million for FY 1978, \$750 million for FY 1979, and to \$900 million for FY's 1980-1989.
- Expand the Federal role in historic preservation by establishing an Historic Preservation Fund and an independent Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The bill authorizes appropriations for the Fund to be raised from the current annual level of \$24.4 million to \$100 million each for FY 1978 and FY 1979, and to \$150 million each for FY 1980 and FY 1981. These funds are to be earmarked from Outer Continental Shelf lease revenues.
- Provide for broadening uses to which Federal oil shale revenues paid to any State may be put to include planning, construction and maintenance of public facilities and provision for public services. Current uses are restricted to public roads and education.



When you announced your Bicentennial Land Heritage Program, you alluded to the use of an expanded Land and Water Conservation Fund as one of the means to reach the goals of the acquisition program.

Attached at Tab A is a fuller discussion of the bill.

- B. Participants - Interior Secretary Kleppe, Members of Congress, Interior and Agriculture Officials, representatives from State and local Park and Recreation Offices, State, local and private Historic Preservation Officials, public interest groups representatives.

(See list attached - Tab B)

- C. Press Plan - To be announced

III. TALKING POINTS

(To be provided by Bob Orben - Tab C)

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE LAND AND WATER

CONSERVATION FUND LEGISLATION

SEPTEMBER 28, 1976



IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE ROSE GARDEN  
THIS MORNING FOR A VERY IMPORTANT OCCASION.

LAST MONTH AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, I SET  
A NATIONAL GOAL OF SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDING THE RECREATIONAL  
FACILITIES, NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES  
OF AMERICA AS OUR BICENTENNIAL PRESENT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

TODAY, WITH THE SIGNING OF LEGISLATION TO ENLARGE  
THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND, WE TAKE THE FIRST  
IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD THAT GOAL.



FEW, IF ANY, FEDERAL PROGRAMS HAVE PROVIDED MORE OR BETTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAN THOSE FINANCED THROUGH THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.

IN THE LAST TWELVE YEARS, SOME TWO BILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN CHanneled THROUGH THIS FUND FOR THE PURCHASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF MILLIONS OF RECREATIONAL ACRES -- WHERE AMERICANS CAN EXPLORE THE WONDER OF NATURE, TAKE PART IN A VARIETY OF SPORTS ACTIVITIES, OR JUST RELAX AND GET AWAY FROM IT ALL.

WITH THE INCREASED AUTHORIZATION WHICH THIS  
LEGISLATION PROVIDES, MORE THAN SIX MILLION NEW ACRES  
OF LAND WILL BE SET ASIDE FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES OVER  
THE NEXT TWELVE YEARS.

IN ADDITION, THIS BILL WILL ESTABLISH AN HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION FUND TO PROVIDE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE  
ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF IMPORTANT HISTORIC SITES  
THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE, THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN SPECIAL PRIDE IN THE LANDMARKS  
OF OUR PAST.



THIS NEW FUND WILL ENSURE THAT THE AMERICANS WHO  
CELEBRATE THE TRICENTENNIAL WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY AN EVEN  
MORE COMPLETE CELEBRATION OF THEIR NATION'S HISTORY.

THERE ARE CERTAIN PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS IN THIS  
BILL TO WHICH I OBJECT, AND FOR WHICH I WILL SEEK AMENDMENTS  
IN SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION. BUT I WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND  
ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSE THE BASIC THRUST AND PURPOSE OF  
THIS LEGISLATION -- TO ENHANCE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, TO ENRICH  
OUR TREASURE OF NATURAL BEAUTY AND PRESERVE IT AS OUR  
HERITAGE TO COMING GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS.

I AM PLEASED AND PROUD TO SIGN THE BILL, S. 327, INTO LAW  
AT THIS TIME.

END OF TEXT