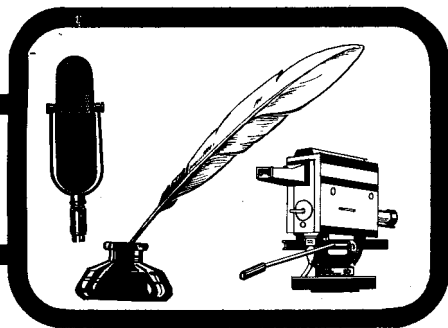


The original documents are located in Box D22, folder “Public Affairs Luncheon, National Forest Products Association, Washington, DC, May 9, 1967” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

For Release in PM's of
Tuesday, May 9, 1967

Statement by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., House Minority Leader, at
Public Affairs Luncheon, National Forest Products Association,
May 9, Statler-Hilton Hotel, Washington, D. C.

It was Shakespeare who said, "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."

We here could achieve greatness if we were able to formulate--instanter--a national public land use policy fully adequate for our times.

Certainly the need for such a policy is being thrust upon us. The need is here and we must grapple with and meet it as best we can. It is without doubt one of the great problems of our day.

I do not think anything we say here or any single enactment by Congress will automatically meet the need for an all-encompassing land use policy. But we can build on what we already have--we can make legislative history, as it were--and I believe from those efforts an improved land use policy will emerge.

First of all, we must discard the idea that the conflict between private and public land use cannot be resolved for the greatest good of the greatest number.

It does not proceed with logic that private use of the land must be completely eliminated if the public is to be accommodated on a tract which clearly needs special protection and preservation for posterity. Neither does it necessarily follow that privately-owned lands sought for the public domain must be completely eliminated as a resource productive of wealth and jobs.

What is necessary is that men of good will work together to reconcile opposing viewpoints and to formulate mutually satisfactory agreements which benefit both public and private interests. The conflict is between aesthetics and economics, but it is not an irreconcilable dispute between reasonable men of good will.

I share fully the concern of the Department of Interior that more of our land be set aside and developed so that the harrassed city-dweller may bathe his senses in the sweet sights and sounds of nature. But I also feel keenly that we should not wipe out communities or industries in the name of the public good. That, I feel, would be most misguided--and unnecessary.

My position as regards a national land use policy is summed up in the

(more)

Republican State of the Union Message of last January 19: "We applaud efforts to create more parks and seashores and will give special emphasis to the preservation of jobs and community stability."

I see Rep. Don Clausen's proposal for a "string-of-pearls" National Redwoods Park and Seashore in California as a concrete example of the kind of reasoned and reasonable land use policy I am espousing.

Mr. Clausen is a dedicated conservationist. But he also is acutely aware that the Administration's plan for a National Redwoods Park would--in the words of Interior Secretary Stewart Udall--put a principal lumber company out of business, cause 235 men to lose their jobs, and deprive California's Del Norte County of \$252,000 in real estate taxes.

It seems to me there is a better way to handle this situation than to throw hundreds of men out of work and provide adjustment payments to Del Norte County and its local government bodies to offset the impact of federal land acquisition for the proposed national park.

The answer, I think, lies in wise application of the multiple-use concept for both public and private lands. This is really nothing new. The U. S. Forest Service has developed forest management techniques to the point where it is indeed possible to carry out Gifford Pinchot's mandate of "the greatest good for the greatest number."

Certainly we must consider carefully Mr. Clausen's warning that "neither tourism nor recreation development can ever substantially replace the annual payrolls of \$80 million, \$18 million spent for services and supplies each year, and the more than \$6 million in property taxes now paid every year by the forest industry in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties (of California) alone."

Mr. Clausen calls instead--and I applaud and endorse his efforts--for a park by partnership, a new approach that encompasses the objectives of a national park while serving the broader needs of the public.

A pattern similar to the plan advanced by Mr. Clausen has already been established by the Congress in my own state of Michigan.

The Congress last year established a new national park--the Pictured Rocks National Seashore in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan--which is a perfect example of how the clash between public and private interests in land use can be dissolved in harmonious agreement. In that case, arrangements were made both for harvesting of timber on a sustained yield basis in perpetuity on company-owned land sold to the federal government for the park, and for future swapping of privately-owned

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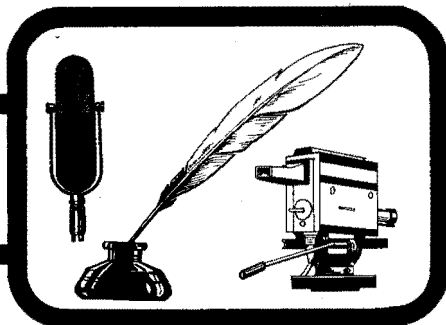
Our discussion of a coherent national land policy will go far beyond the Pictured Rocks Seashore in Michigan and a National Redwoods Park in California, of course.

We may well get into Sen. Karl Mundt's proposals for reversing the population flow from the cities--where 70 per cent of our people sit huddled on one per cent of our land--to our rural areas, many of them economically depressed.

Or we might discuss the work of the Public Land Review Commission. That group's recommendations may well produce a coalescing of ideas essential to the formulation of a national land policy.

Meantime it seems clear that our guidelines should be those of multiple use of public and private lands, and a reasoned and reasonable approach to conflicts between private and public interests.

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