

MINUTE ITEM

22. CONGRESSIONAL "WILDERNESS BILL", S-174 - W.O. 4000.3.

Chairman Anderson reported on S-174, the Wilderness Bill presently before the United States Congress, stating he was generally in favor of the policy expressed therein.

Mr. Alan Sieroty, the Chairman's Executive Secretary, outlined the general provisions of the bill; i.e., that certain lands which have been classified administratively by the National Park Service and by the National Forest Service as wilderness, wild, and primitive, would be designated primarily as wilderness areas, which means that there would be no grazing, mining, or timber activities permitted. Congress would have a veto power over any of these lands that it wants to restrict from the wilderness areas. The major purpose of the classification change is to keep the lands in natural condition and thus prevent multiple use of the lands.

Commissioner Champion pointed out that the bill is an attempt to provide further direct Congressional protection, so that the only way in which lands of the type under consideration could be used for any other purpose would be through Congressional determination, rather than through administrative regulation.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, A RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE WILDERNESS BILL, S-174.