

Mr. CHURCH. I shall try to be very explicit.

The last thing the committee wanted was a land-grab bill. Most of the members of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs come from western States. We are acutely conscious of the fact that the Federal Government is the largest landholder in our States. Federal holdings vary from one-third to more than 90 percent. In the State of Idaho, for example, 63 percent of the land is owned by the Federal Government. No Member of the Senate is more sensitive to the danger of abusive Federal land acquisition than is the senior Senator from Idaho. So the committee has taken every precaution to make certain that the bill will not become a device for any kind of offensive land grab by the Federal Government.

These are precautions we have taken: First, we have written into the bill a provision which prescribes that, with respect to any land acquired by the Federal Government, either within the national forests or the national parks or the game and wildlife refuges, wherever it may be, of all the money made available for this purpose in the bill, only 15 percent can be spent in the West, where Federal landholdings are already large. Eighty-five percent of the money must be spent in the East, where there is a serious

need for acquiring more land in order that the public may have places to enjoy outdoor recreation. That is the first precaution the committee has taken.

The second precaution is to establish a formula funneling the lion's share of this money to the States. Sixty percent of the money, in ordinary circumstances, will be tendered to the States as matching funds, to permit the States to go forward with recreational development. That is the second precaution we have taken in the bill.

Third, by leaving existing law intact, the effect of the bill is to impose all the limitations of the Weeks Act, which has been in effect since 1911 or 1912, and which regulates the acquisition of land by the Federal Government in the national forests.