

# National Seashore Plan Backed

## PLAN—Seashore Park

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WASHINGTON — Federal, state, and local officials strongly backed establishment of Cape Lookout National Seashore on North Carolina's Outer Banks here Thursday.

But a snag developed during congressional hearings when an owner of land on Core Banks sought equal treatment with Core Banks Gun Club.

In the legislation establishing the 30,000-acre national playground, the gun club property,

except for oceanfront, was excluded from public ownership.

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J. M. Davis, a Morehead City oil distributor who owns about a mile of soundside property on the narrow sand island, said he wanted equal treatment.

Sen. Alan Bible of Nevada, whose Senate subcommittee was holding hearings on the Cape Lookout legislation, asked National Park Service officials to look into Davis' contention.

Park officials have made no secret that they are not happy with the special treatment for

the gun club, which owns about five miles of ocean front.

Associate National Parks director, Clark Stratton, told the subcommittee that his agency thought such exemptions amounted to "discrimination," since some hunters would be given exclusive rights within boundaries of a public playground.

The exemption for the club was included in the legislation after hearings in Morehead City in 1963 were warned that without it, the seashore legislation "would be dead."

Rep. Horace Kornegay of Greensboro has insisted on the exemption. Most of the members of the club are from Greensboro.

Park Service officials have feared that one exemption would lead to others.

Land acquisition for the proposed national seashore is being carried out by the state from a fund appropriated by the 1959 legislature. Under the legislation, it is to be completed before

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of the National Park Service takes over the area.

So far, the State has acquired about 80 per cent of the 58-mile stretch of sand islands from Beaufort Inlet to Ocracoke Inlet that would be embraced in the national seashore.

Sen. B. Everett Jordan led the parade of witnesses favoring the seashore legislation. Sen. Bible, who inspected the area by air last month, said the "near unanimity" of support "is a first for this committee," which considers all proposals for national parks and recreation areas.

He praised the "North Carolina tradition" of cooperating with federal officials in buying land for national parks, and called the Cape Lookout proposal a "magnificent example of conserving our natural resources."

Jordan read statements from Sen. Sam Ervin Jr. and Gov. Dan K. Moore backing establishment of the national seashore.

Third District Rep. David Henderson also strongly backed the legislation, and said he expected House hearings on the proposal later this month.

### No Curtailment

Alfred Cooper, chairman of the Carteret County Board of Commissioners, pointed out that the public playground "would in no way curtail private beach development" in his coastal county, but would appeal to a growing class of vacationers who "are looking for quiet peaceful" enjoyment of seaside activities.

Woodrow Price, chairman of the North Carolina Seashore Commission, said the bustling island of Portsmouth had, in 1861, expected an invasion by federal forces, but that now, 104 years later, the "four remaining residents" of the island "are now preparing to welcome the invasion we anticipated in 1861."

Price and his commission were praised by Sen. Jordan and Sen. Bible for "an outstanding job" in laying the groundwork for the seashore legislation. Jordan also praised Roy Wilder Jr., executive secretary of the commission.

Other statements of support came from officials of the North Carolina Board of Water Resources, the State Board of Conservation and Development, State Recreation Commission, and the General Assembly.

In addition, officers of several national conservation organizations backed the proposal, but urged that Shackleford Banks, the eight-mile-long island across from Beaufort, remain in its "natural state."

Bob Simpson of Morehead City, representing the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, backed this idea by urging use of the Long Core Banks and Portsmouth Island as major developed areas.

National Park Service plans

call for major development of Shackleford Banks for public use.

Remarks of witnesses included:

Sen. Jordan: "This proposal enjoys unanimous support from both official and private groups . . . the President has specifically included the Cape Lookout National Seashore as part of his program for natural resources development."

Sen. Ervin: "The coordinate federal-state background work, when brought to fruition through enactment of this bill, would provide a model of cooperative federalism in achieving effective conservation."

Gov. Moore: "I am glad to have the opportunity to affirm North Carolina's interest and willingness to cooperate in establishing the fourth national recreational facility within our borders in order that our natural resources might be more wisely used to conserve our human resources."

Rep. Henderson: "The scenic beauty of this portion of North Carolina's famed Outer Banks should be preserved in its present natural state, not only for this generation of Americans, but for posterity."

Others from the State on hand for the hearing were Gen. J. R. Townsend, chairman of the Board of Water Resources; Braxton Dawson of Washington, N. C. and Alida Willis of Morehead City, members of the State Seashore Commission; W. H. Potter of Beaufort, liaison between the county commissioners and the National Park Service; Parks Icenhower, assistant state property officer, and Odell Merrill, Carteret County register of deeds.

Robert Gavin of Sanford, representing Cape Lookout property owner Charles M. Reeves, of Sanford, was also present. Gavin said Reeves favors establishment of the seashore.

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