

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The life of the dedicated lover of nature is never an idle one. So long as the doctrine of exploitation is held to by our politicians and industrialists, so long our natural resources will be threatened.

It is inconceivable to me that *anyone* would propose to dam the Grand Canyon, or indeed to alter it in any way other than the natural processes of erosion. Yet such a proposal has been made, widely accepted, and by the time you read this may even have become law.

I have never seen the Grand Canyon, and perhaps I never will. That is not the point. If this National Park and National Monument can be desecrated, no acre of American ground is safe from exploitation. The very cornerstone of any successful program to save scenic and recreational areas must be absolute inviolability. Any weakening of this cornerstone threatens the whole structure. If a weak Congress, or an ambitious secretary, or an unscrupulous president, or any other politician or group of politicians, can threaten our park system at any time, the whole system is doomed. Surely some bright industrialist can dream up a scheme for utilizing the heat energy from the springs of Yellowstone. Certainly the Great Falls of the Yosemite can be harnessed for hydroelectric power. Certainly some practical use can be found for every park, everywhere. With increasing pressures of population, someone is sure to try it, sooner or later. It's only a matter of time.

I don't know how this one will come out; but I know that unless *all* of us stand fast, hold to our convictions, and let everyone, especially our political representatives know about it at every opportunity, we will lose our precious natural heritage of beauty.

This is every body's problem, not just the domain of your Conservation Committee. We believe ourselves to constitute an educational organization. Whom do we educate? Only those whom we meet, or speak to, or write to, or otherwise contact with the message that our natural resources and our natural beauty are a national birthright, not to be sold for a mess of pottage.

Allen H. Benton

NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM

Now that the breeding season is over, contributors are requested promptly to complete and return their nest record cards to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 33 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

Last year over 25,000 completed cards were returned and from the response so far it seems that the 1966 total will better that figure. Papers using data from the nest record card program were presented at the Wilson Society Meeting at Pennsylvania State University. It is hoped that the use of this program by research workers will increase.