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# Excerpts from Remarks on Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Oregon for Kennedy

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OREGON FOR KENNEDY

MAY 23, 1968

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EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS ON SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY - ASTORIA, OREGON - May 24, 1968

Oregonians are justly proud of the beauty and majesty of their land. I have enjoyed the splendor of the outdoors here in the Northwest not just during this campaign, but for a long period of time -- fishing for salmon and riding the white water along the rivers of the Northwest, climbing mountains and skiing in this magnificent area of our country. My children have enjoyed skiing at Mt. Hood here in Oregon.

Today I am delighted to have had the chance to enjoy the beauty of Oregon's beaches. For more than half a century, Oregon has shown the way for the nation in keeping her beaches in the public domain, insuring that this magnificent resource is kept for the public good. Other areas have not been so fortunate, as the mile upon mile of private beach in Southern California, inaccessible to the public, shows so clearly. But in Oregon, as long ago as 1910, the beaches were declared public highways, protecting the interest of the public in finding recreation and tranquility in the grandeur of the sea. Today, led by men such as Robert Straub, the fight for these beaches has continued. And it must be won.

For the natural wealth of your beaches and parks has done more than enrich the lives of Oregonians. Each year tourists add more than \$250 million to Oregon's economy -- a 99% increase in the last decade. So your natural beauty has enriched all Americans. By 1970, more than 20 million Americans -- 10% of our total population -- will visit this state each year. And within 20 years, tourism will be the leading industry of Oregon.

But to meet this demand for recreational facilities, we must begin to plan for this need. Already we have seen families turned away from beaches and restrictions imposed on those who seek to escape from the pressures of modern life. In one national park recently, on one holiday, 57,000 campers jammed an area of 7 square miles; creating a massive traffic jam in the midst of a great scenic asset. That is not the kind of recreational future we want for Oregon. And, with proper action now, we can avoid it.

We can act now to create a Willamette Greenway, preserving this river for public enjoyment: recreation, camping, fishing, and boating. We can also plan to set aside some of these rivers, protecting them for those who come to enjoy their recreational uses. We passed the Wild Rivers Act last year for this purpose, and a major part of the Rogue River here in Oregon was covered. This is the kind of federal help which can most benefit communities in their own fight for environmental preservation.

Finally, we can provide some federal financial assistance to help local communities to acquire land for preservation. If we are to meet the rising demand--for example, the trebling of campsites within the decade -- we should be prepared to assist effective community action.

Above all, we need the involvement and dedication of the people themselves to win the fight for natural beauty. But with people like Robert Straub and with the citizens of Oregon leading the way, that fight will be won.

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