

86TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 160

A BILL

To preserve permanently as a national park an area of national significance in Colorado and Utah, such park to be known as the Dinosaur National Park, which shall supersede the Dinosaur National Monument, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That in order to preserve in a natural condition as a national
4 park for the benefit and inspiration of present and future gen-
5 erations, the nationally important scenic grandeur, geologic
6 phenomena, and scientific features of those portions of the
7 canyons of the Yampa and Green Rivers that are now con-
8 tained in the Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado and
9 Utah, there is hereby established, as described in section
10 of this Act, the Dinosaur National Park.
11 Such national park shall be preserved, protected, and
administered by the Secretary of the Interior for the benefit
of future generations in accordance with the provisions of the Act
for the preservation of the Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado and Utah.

14 basic
15 tion of the national parks, pursuant
16 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C., 1946 edition, secs. 1-5),
17 as amended and supplemented. Nothing contained in this
18 Act shall preclude the Secretary of the Interior from inves-
19 tigating, under the authority invested in him by the Federal
20 reclamation laws the suitability of reservoir and canal sites

... so starts S-160

... one of three bills now in Congress having to do with Dinosaur National Monument, which sits in scenic majesty — all 200,000 acres of it — astride the Utah-Colorado border. S-160, introduced into the Senate by Colorado's Gordon Allott, like HR 951, introduced into the House of Representatives by Pennsylvania's John Saylor, would give this incomparable area the National Park status it so richly deserves. HR 6597, introduced by Colorado's Wayne Aspinall, would enlarge the Monument's borders. Why all this activity around one area? *Because Dinosaur became famous — and was almost lost — when, in the original plan for the upper Colorado River Storage Project, it was to be the site of a huge dam and a man-made lake that would inundate thousands of square miles of irreplaceable natural splendor.*

As a side effect of the battle that raged over Echo Park Dam, Dinosaur National Monument — which comparatively few people then knew about — was sought out by increasing numbers of tourists. Add to this the National Park fever which has sent millions more people to parks during the past decade than anyone had ever anticipated — more, in fact, than were expected to be visiting parks by 1966 — and Dinosaur began bursting at the seams. Its few facilities were strained, its most breathless sights were reachable only through churning rapids by boat; or by rough and uncertain road, on foot or horseback. Here was a great treasure, newly discovered but destined someday to become as popular as a Yellowstone, as rewarding as Grand Canyon, and as new and refreshing an experience as anyone could find on this continent. But it needed development — in the best sense of the word — to be able to exhibit its unique values “for the benefit (as S-160 points out) and inspiration of present and future generations.” The starting point in making this treasure available, many feel, is to change its status to that of a full-fledged National Park — to make it a senior member instead of a junior member of the great and growing National Park Service. It wouldn't cost anything to make the change, it wouldn't threaten a tightly stretched national budget — but it would open the door on a new world and would expedite those facilities for which funds already are available.





*It started
with the
World's
greatest
find of
BONES...*



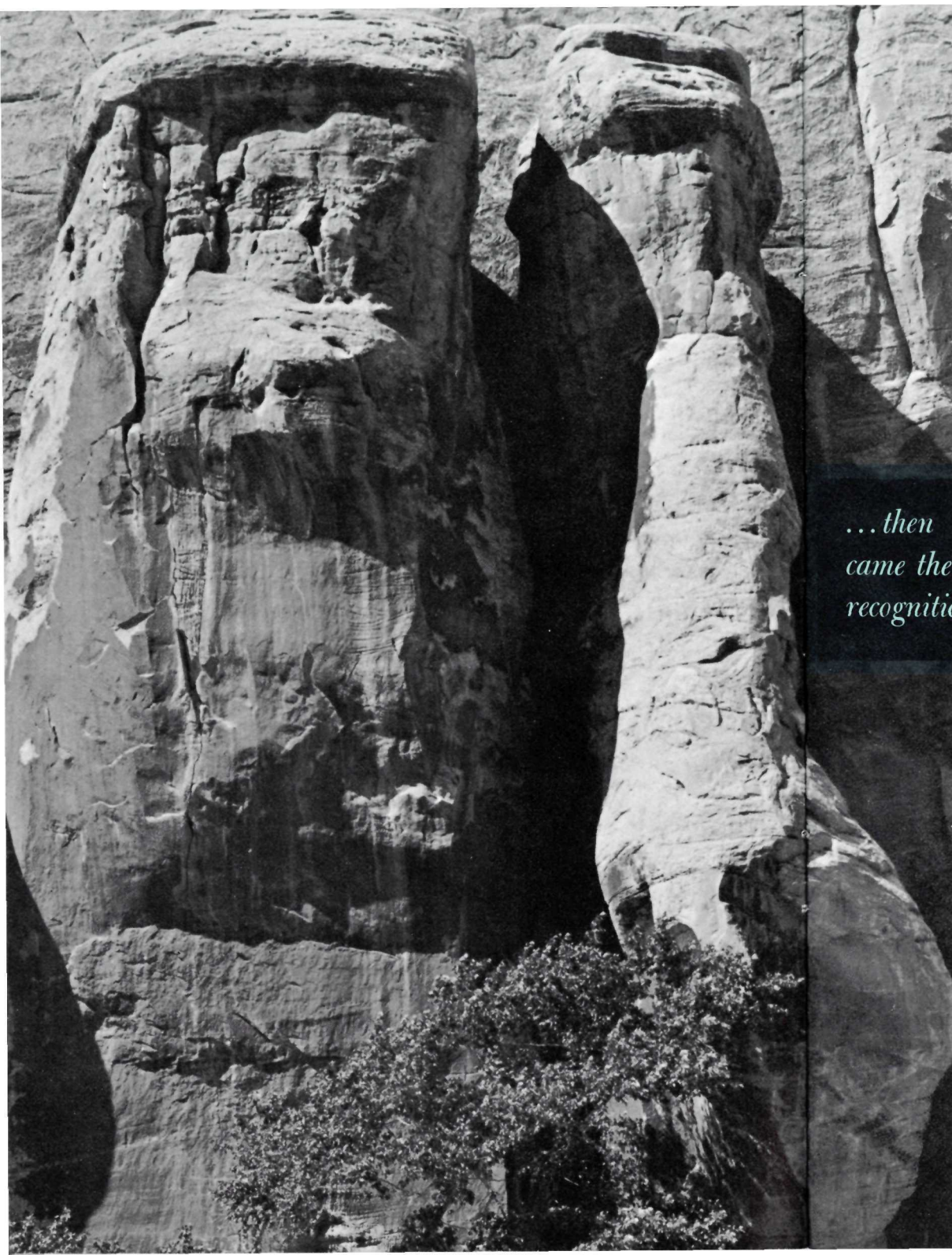
*...and remnants of human existence
millions of years after the Dinosaurs,
and hundreds of years ago...*

The dinosaur story began 180 million years ago and ended 120 million years later, when a virtual army of dinosaurs came upon hard times, died off, and were destined to be forgotten for centuries on end.

The story of man starts about 400-800 A.D., when prehistoric people lived in the area, and left their marks on the canyon walls in red ocher and in pictographs carved out chip by chip. There is no real evidence of anything else happening after that for nearly a thousand years. In 1776 a Spanish party led Father Escalante through in search of a trail from Mexico to Monterrey. The earliest explorations of The Green River canyon were made by William Ashley in 1825 and by W. L. Manley in 1849. In 1869 and 1871 Major John Wesley Powell set out to find some firm answers in this remarkable area of split mountains and raging, pounding, roaring waters. A photographer in Major Powell's party gave the great American public its first exposure to the dinosaur country: a century before pictures of Steamboat Rock began showing up in newspapers and magazines as a result of the Echo Park Dam controversy, neighbors collected in plush parlors to stare breathlessly into stereoscopes at pictures of the Colorado River roaring through the canyons of Dinosaur.

Major Powell discovered these canyons and named and mapped them, and then went on to make other significant contributions to the West. He was followed into the dinosaur country by the man who really uncovered the bones and made them famous: Earl Douglass, who had heard shepherd's tales of massive bones and went off in search of the graveyard of monsters he knew must be somewhere near. He found it in 1909, and Andrew Carnegie commissioned him to acquire bones for the Carnegie Museum's Hall of Vertebrate Paleontology in Pittsburgh, where the prehistoric creatures could be re-assembled for all to gape at in wonderment. Souvenir hunters were not long hearing about this strange strike, and surged in with baskets and boxes and wagon trains; so Douglass appealed to the Carnegie Museum for help, and help came: Woodrow Wilson, in 1915, by proclamation, created Dinosaur National Monument. Today the quarry is a museum, as modern in architecture as the bones in exhibits are ancient.

The bones started it, the bones made it famous
... but there is far more to the Dinosaur story than that.



*... then
came the
recognition*

Not long after Dinosaur was made a National Monument, it became obvious that the sights and sounds of unspoiled nature in the Dinosaur country needed protection no less than the remnants of the 130-million-year-old life in the quarries.

Visitors to the new Monument discovered that the ancient bones were really only the frosting on a most remarkable cake. A few alert nature lovers, mostly from San Francisco's famous old Sierra Club, had for years enjoyed the interior Dinosaur country. Now its fame as wilderness, its inspirational beauty, the awesomeness of its geologic formations, became more widely recognized; and the pressure of conservation-minded people forced further protection. In 1938, Franklin D. Roosevelt, by presidential proclamation, expanded Dinosaur National Monument to include the incomparable canyons, the pictographs and petroglyphs on the sheer rock along the river's edge, the caves of early man, and rocky mountain slopes which provide a wilderness setting for bighorn sheep and other wildlife.

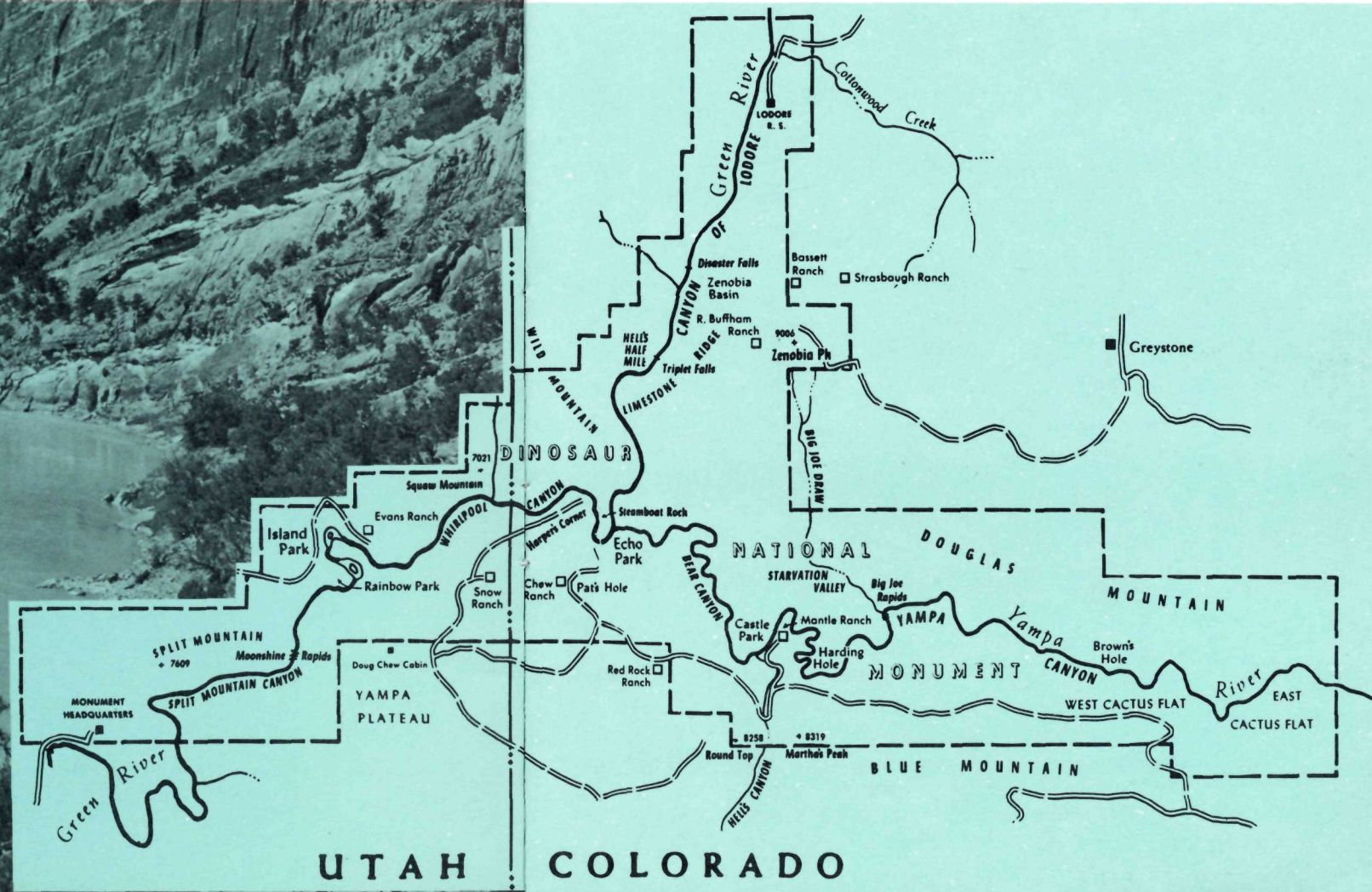
This incomparable area might have been a National Park straight off; for this was an area of national significance, and it more than met the standards and requirements of park status. But it was easier to expand the Monument, and quicker, and it was something that tough Harold Ickes, the Interior Secretary who was impatient to get on with things, could roll up his sleeves and get done without coaxing Congress to go along. Only Congress can make a Park, but the President can make a Monument: all he has to do is sign a proclamation carefully composed in the office of the Secretary of the Interior. This authority is granted the President by the Antiquities Act of June 8, 1906. The way, in general, a National Park must be protected ("in its natural state") and its future, are provided for in law; and this is important over the years. Congress may more readily appropriate money for an area created by Congress — and this is vitally important. It is one reason why there is such persistent enthusiasm for making Dinosaur a Park, and getting on with the job of providing another spectacular area to accommodate the growing millions who are overcrowding present National Park facilities from coast to coast.



For its fabulous geology alone...

... the Dinosaur country would be worthy of National Park status. The intricately folded, colorful rock layers, the warped and twisting uplifts, the deep canyons, the sheer cliffs that overhang the raging river so far that a pebble dropped from above may strike the far shore — where else can anyone find so thrilling a theatrical performance by nature? For the experienced geologist, the paleontologist, the biologist, the anthropologist, here is a laboratory that has been a-building for centuries, and endless signs, still unexplored, of earliest existence are there for the finding and interpretation.

In the beginning, the Dinosaur country wasn't at all the way it





is today. Once it was swampland, with reptiles splashing and creeping – chiefly dinosaurs, sometimes larger than a locomotive, sometimes as small as chickens, 130-million-year-old relatives of today's crocodiles. And there were tropical ferns, mosses, tortoises, mussels, and primitive rat-like mammals. The largest of the dinosaurs, the 40-ton *Diplodocus*, was the original Ferdinand the Bull: he just liked to munch on the plants,

and wouldn't hurt a fly. If a fly bit his tail, he wouldn't know about it for fifteen minutes. He was not quick-witted, and this may be one reason that when the rivers came, he was caught, swept downstream, piled up on a sandbar and covered over with sand, silt and marl, and kept in such good condition through the ages that astute paleontologists could study and reconstruct his entire skeleton.



*Great Plans
have been made*

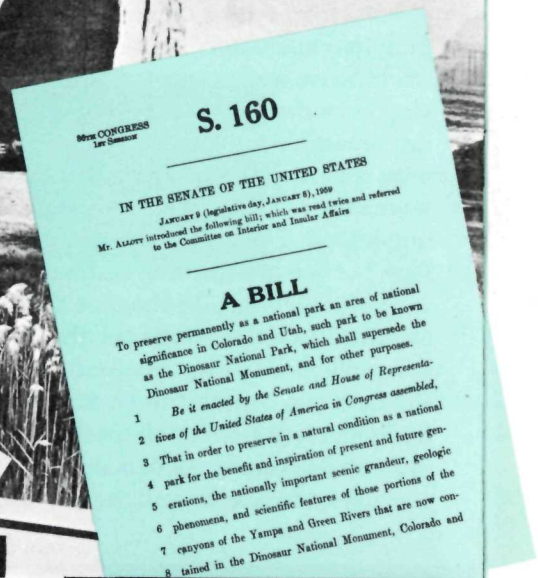
What would happen to Dinosaur as a National Park? This, of course, would depend upon the speed with which Congress would appropriate money for its development. But the Park Service's Mission 66 plan for development and expansion of all Parks already anticipates the first steps in making Dinosaur available to those who want to come and see and enjoy it. The very heart

of this wonderland will be accessible from main highways, by way of roads (for seeing things from, not for through traffic) built and maintained by the Park Service, designed to be unobtrusive and in keeping with the area. These roads will be clearly marked, taking the tourist — or the scientist — into areas of incomparable mystery and beauty, of hills and canyons and caves, with well-marked easy trails leading to every important spot where the evidences of past eras can be seen even by the uninitiated. There will be tours, under the direction of well-schooled Park Service interpreters, that will open new doors on a long-dead world for all who take the time to listen; and nighttime camp-fire talks bringing back the illusion of life as it was in this area millions of years ago. And for those who want excitement, the river will continue to beckon; the fleet of huge rubber boats and husky pilots, a fair match for the roughest rapids, will be there in force. Dinosaur will be a new kind of National Park, there is nothing quite like it in all the world.





SENATOR GORDON ALLOTT, (COLO.)



A few days after Congress convened in January 1959, Senator Gordon Allott of Colorado told the Senate: "Mr. President, I introduce a bill S. 160 to establish Dinosaur National Park as our 30th National Park. It would encompass that area now operated as a national monument in Utah and Colorado. In this area, the Green and Yampa Rivers slash through picturesque gorges to come together deep in a canyon to form the great Colorado River. I believe strongly that this remote and beautiful scenery warrants the development, the accessibility and the prestige which park status would bring.

"For a brief period of time in its recent history Dinosaur was a controversial area, because it was to be the site of Echo Park Dam, one of the units of the Upper Colorado River development. When this projected dam, important though it was to the project, became a matter of widespread public interest, the Congress subsequently eliminated it from the development, so that the area would be preserved in its natural state.

"As one of the proponents of the upper Colorado River storage project, including the Echo Park Dam, I have in this bill purposely omitted reference to power withdrawals, preferring to leave that issue where it stands. One Congress cannot bind a future Congress. We are not foresighted enough to determine for all time the best interests of the people of this country. The only purpose of this bill is to give national park status to this remarkable area, and to make available its great scenic values to millions of Americans to whom it is nothing more than a name.

"Many of us, in and out of Congress, believe that we should now recognize the popularity of this remarkable area by making it, through congressional action, a full-fledged national park."

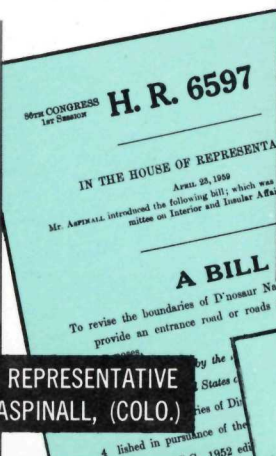
With this action, the first important step towards creating Dinosaur National Park was taken.

In the House of Representatives, Congressman John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania introduced a similar but not identical bill – HR-951 – which also would elevate the status of the Monument to that of a National Park.

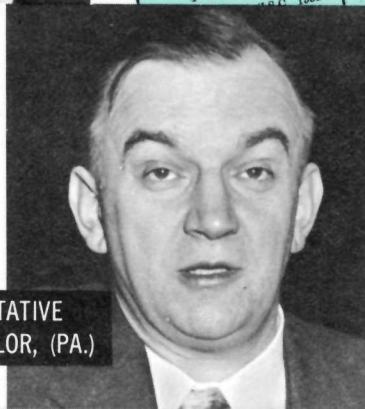
In April 1959, Representative Wayne N. Aspinall also introduced a bill in the House – HR-6597 – this one to enlarge the borders of the Monument and to clear the way for improvements and access roads. It does not specifically ask for a change of status.



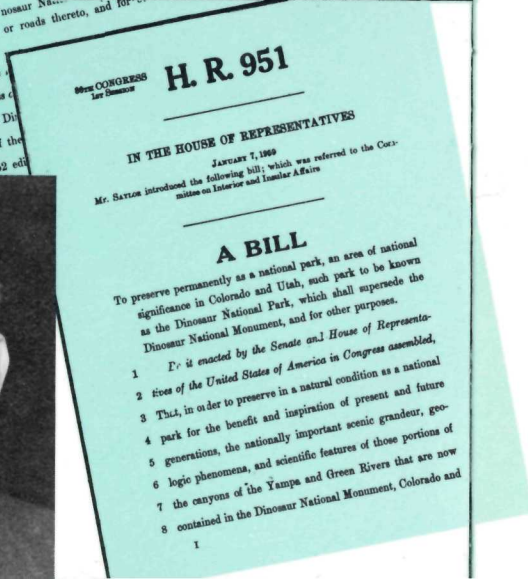
REPRESENTATIVE WAYNE ASPINALL, (COLO.)



Only Congress can make a National Park



REPRESENTATIVE JOHN SAYLOR, (PA.)



The next step...

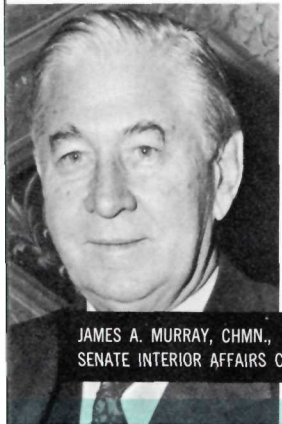
FRED A. SEATON,
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR



*...urge
Secretary
Seaton
to act*

... in the legislative process requires the interest and cooperation of three men: the first is Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton, whose department must furnish Congress with a report on these bills, since Congress must consider the official opinion of the Executive branch. This is not as easy as it sounds: the Interior Department consists of several divisions, including the Reclamation engineers who build dams, and these groups sometimes have conflicting interests and opinions on bills of this sort. Possibly because all the opinions could not be reconciled in time, Interior was unable to produce any report on similar Dinosaur Park bills for the last session of Congress, so no action could be taken. *Congress needs reports on these bills now: You can help get them by writing the Honorable Fred A. Seaton, Secretary, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., asking him to expedite the reports.*

JAMES A. MURRAY, CHMN.,
SENATE INTERIOR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



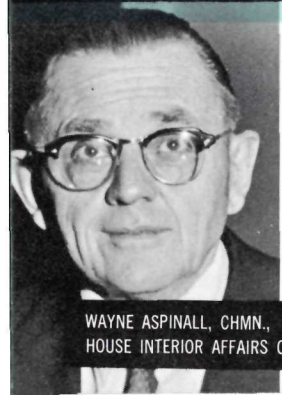
*...these men must
place the bills before
the committees*

The other two men are important because the next step will be to get consideration of the bills by the Interior Affairs Committees of the Senate and the House. You can help get these wheels in motion by expressing your interest in Dinosaur National Park to the Chairman of each Committee — the Honorable James E. Murray of the Senate, and Representative Wayne N. Aspinall of the House. Here are their addresses:

The Honorable James E. Murray
The United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

The Honorable Wayne N. Aspinall
The House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

WAYNE ASPINALL, CHMN.,
HOUSE INTERIOR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



...these things must happen...



- 1 A Bill must be introduced in the Senate. *This has been done by Colorado's Gordon Allott.*
- 2 A Bill must be introduced in the House. *Two bills are in the House. Representative Saylor's changes the status of the Monument, Representative Aspinall's enlarges the Monument but does not suggest a change in status.*
- 3 Those who introduced these bills have now asked Secretary of the Interior Seaton for a report from his department — in effect, the attitude of the Executive Branch on the bills. These reports are sometimes long delayed. *Write to the Honorable Fred A. Seaton, asking him to expedite the reports on Bills S-160, HR-951 and HR-6597.*
- 4 Nothing further can happen until the Committees on Interior Affairs of the Senate and the House consider the bills. With the Interior Department's report in hand, each Committee can report the bill out to the floor for a vote. But if the Interior Department report does not come, or if either Committee delays considerably, all will be lost. *Therefore, it is important that the Chairmen of these Committees hear from the people of the country that Dinosaur should be made a Park. Your opinion on this will help the bill along.*
- 5 When the bills are reported out of the Committees, it will be necessary to remind the Congressmen and Senators from your own State that action on Dinosaur is important NOW. Remember that in the House alone, there were 6596 bills introduced ahead of Representative Aspinall's bill on Dinosaur — on nearly 6596 different subjects. Without your help, the Dinosaur bills could get lost in the legislative process.

*Here are a few comments on the
Dinosaur National Park project by
people who have investigated the facts:*

"No area is more worthy of the assurance of protection that designation as a National Park would provide than Dinosaur National Monument. Surely there can be no valid reason for further delay in providing such guarantee of the future of this superb reservation."

*Richard W. Westwood, President,
American Nature Association*

"The Wildlife Management Institute believes that the Dinosaur National Monument area definitely is of National Park stature. In fact, we think that this is one of the most outstanding scenic areas in this country. With the development of access and use facilities, it will compare with the Grand Canyon. We earnestly hope that the Congress will give favorable consideration to the establishment of the Dinosaur area as a National Park."

*Ira N. Gabrielson, President,
Wildlife Management Institute*

"The National Wildlife Federation believes Dinosaur National Monument should be made a full-fledged National Park and the Federation will support legislation to accomplish this objective."

*Charles H. Callison, Conservation Director,
National Wildlife Federation*

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and monuments feels strongly that Dinosaur National Monument, because of its outstanding scenic, scientific, and historical assets, deserves National Park status; and

WHEREAS, the Board feels that widespread public interest in this area requires that an early effort be made to develop the Park and to make available to all the people the remarkable natural assets of the area; and

WHEREAS, the Nation is in critical need of more National Parks to serve the growing demands of the public; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gordon Allott of Colorado and Representative John Saylor of Pennsylvania have each introduced a bill to create National Park status for Dinosaur;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Board express its appreciation to Senator Allott and to Representative Saylor for their efforts on behalf of Dinosaur and the increasing number of National Park enthusiasts; and the Board urges the Secretary of the Interior to report favorably upon these bills at the earliest possible time.

Resolution taken by the 11-man Citizen's Board created by congress, to advise with the Secretary of the Interior on park service matters. Representative Aspinall's bill was not introduced at the time of this resolution.

"Of all the places of wild grandeur and beauty in the semi-arid regions of the West, none deserves full protection and enjoyment as a national park more than the great canyons of Dinosaur. More than a thousand of our members know this first-hand from having made the spectacular six-day float trip down the canyons. They know that there is nothing else like it anywhere."

*David R. Brower, Executive Director,
The Sierra Club*

"Not only is Dinosaur a unique area on the merits of its intrinsic features (deep canyons, wild waters) and worthy of National Park status, but it is like a remnant of any wilderness type which is not yet eroded, dammed, burned, cut, grazed, or polluted; it is a part of a far too small portion of public lands that is real wilderness. Such areas are priceless — not only for the beauty that can be experienced there, but also for the broadened perspectives and spiritual refreshment provided by the contrasts that they present relative to our usual environment of almost wholly human interactions. Wildernesses and the opportunities they afford for contact with dynamic non-human worlds, are becoming increasingly dear due to our rapid growth in population and concomitant economic development."

*Dr. Dan Hale, USNC, IGY
Byrd Station, Antarctica*

"The Dinosaur may not have a sum total of *all* the park features of the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, or Yellowstone, but it ranks so close that it must be placed in the top bracket. It tops Zion and Bryce, and outranks Mesa Verde, 'in magnitude of scenic qualities it is almost equal to Grand Canyon', is the way one authority puts it. I believe this includes even the historic and scientific elements — and I do not confine this comparison to the original 80 acres containing the present findings of Dinosaur remains. One of the tremendously impressive features is the awe-inspiring contrast of color and aspect of the rock formations between the lower and upper benches.

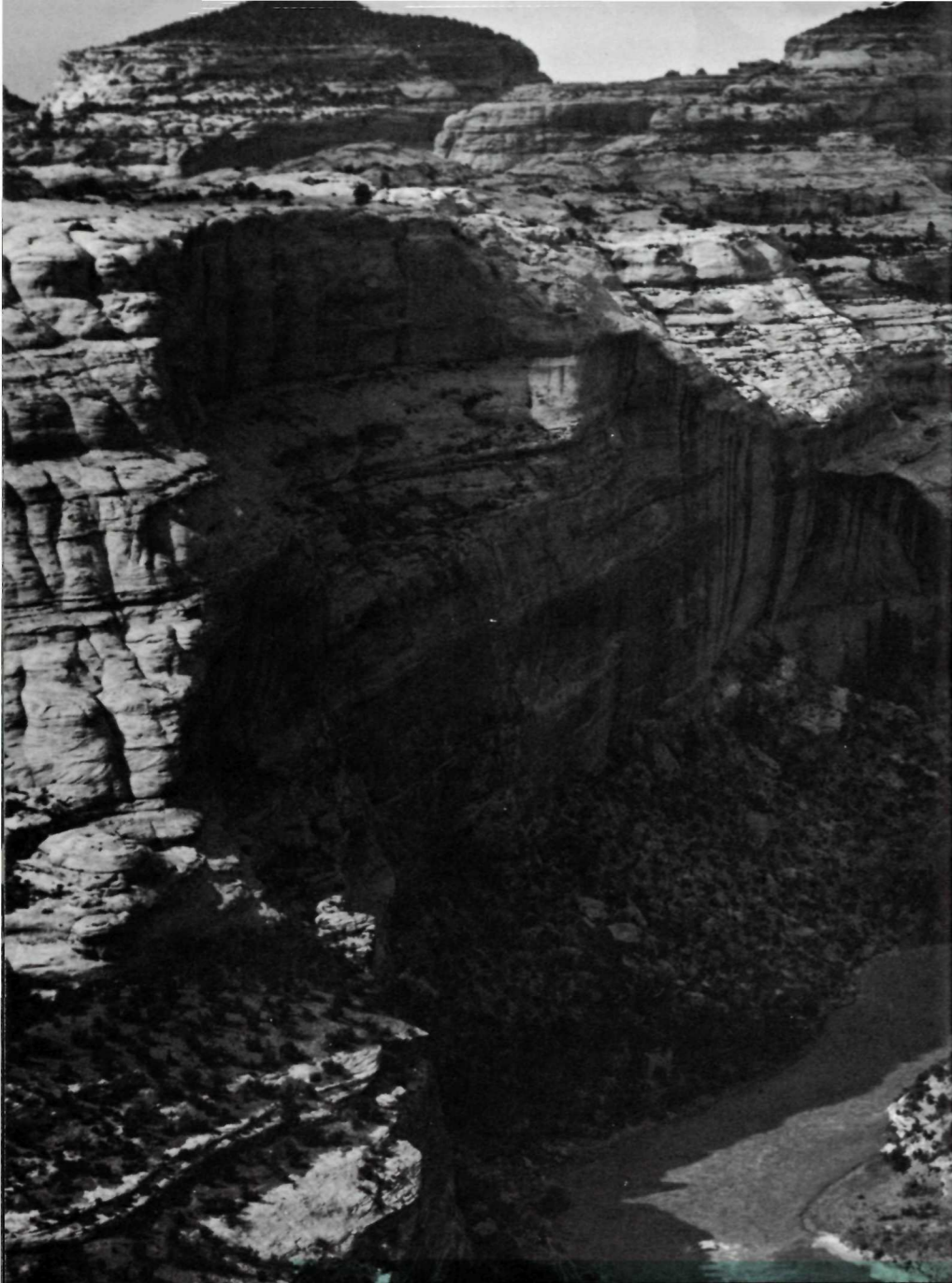
"I doubt if there is anywhere in the country a locale where the story of the evolution of the earth's crust is more distinctly, simply and extensively depicted as in this area. It is a school room that grows in educational value each year. Surely this educational and scientific value places it in a category with some of our grandest parks.

"Botanically and zoologically the area also stands out. The zones range from those that produce willows, poplars and peach trees to the upper zones of aspen and Douglas fir. It is a botanist's paradise for this reason. Those who have studied the area intensively tell me that nowhere in that region of the United States is there to be found the wealth of fauna that abounds in the Dinosaur area.

"Archeologically the area rates at the top. The pictographs and other cultural features such as the storage caves are valuable records of prehistoric Indian civilizations, and it is a pretty good bet that what is now known of these things is only a first page of the history that can be uncovered by further exploration.

"If one is seeking for history of more recent dating and for romance and legend, certainly the area abounds in tales and locale for outlaws and other types of colorful, early American, frontier habitation."

*From a report by I. T. BODE, former Director,
Missouri Conservation Commission*



...Dinosaur can be our most exciting National Park...and YOU can help get it done!



...help pass the word along...

Inside this back cover you will find a postage-prepaid envelope. Use it to order more Dinosaur booklets like this one (at cost — 10¢ each or \$1.00 per dozen) and additional supplies of stamps to place on your correspondence (3 sheets, 48 stamps, for \$1.00). Enclose check made payable to Council of Conservationists, Inc. All funds so received will be used solely to increase available Dinosaur material. There are also a few questions we would like to have you answer if you feel so inclined.

Fred Smith, Director
The Council of Conservationists, Inc.
P. O. Box 454
Short Hills, New Jersey

The Council of Conservationists is a non-profit, privately supported organization consisting of a small group of public-spirited citizens interested in expanding, protecting and promoting National Parks and other natural areas which are becoming of increasing importance to the American public. This booklet was produced in the Council's workshop at Short Hills, N. J. The pictures of Dinosaur were taken by Philip Hyde. Photo at bottom of page 4, courtesy of University of Colorado Museum.
