

Quotes



- CONSERVATION
- PARKS
- NATURAL BEAUTY

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Parks, Natural Beauty"

I N T R O D U C T I O N

There is more to America than raw industrial might....There is the part of America which was here long before we arrived, and will be here, if we preserve it, long after we depart. The forests and the flowers, the open prairies, the slope of the hills, the tall mountains--the granite, the limestone, the caliche, the unmarked trails, the winding little stream--well, this is the America that no amount of science or skill can ever recreate or actually ever duplicate.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States
Signing Ceremony of the
HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION ACT
October 22, 1965

Conservation as we know it is an American phenomenon--born of social reform, weaned by a dynamic national spirit, shocked to maturity by recognition that we have defiled a bountiful land. Conservationists are trying to demonstrate that free people can act in their own behalf, can dedicate their lands not to the profit of the few but to the good of the many. Today, conservation is clearly the concern of every American.

--Hubert H. Humphrey
Vice President of the United States

Keeping America Beautiful is a prime concern of the National Park Service. The Park Service has a commitment to wage an unrelenting war against ugliness. In the Nation's Capital, indeed throughout the entire country, the Park Service is fortunate in having the backing of Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson. Her Committee for a More Beautiful Capital is working tirelessly in its efforts to have color in the National Capital Parks throughout the year. Keeping America Beautiful is the responsibility of all citizens and Mrs. Johnson is a luminous meteor in mobilizing citizen action. "Man is not on this earth merely to be happy, nor even to be simply honest. He is here to realize great things for humanity," wrote painter Van Gogh a long time ago. In the national effort to maintain and recreate America, the First Lady and the National Park Service are a fine team working at realizing great things for humanity. Let us all strive to help in the effort of Keeping America Beautiful.

--John W. McCormack
Speaker of the United States
House of Representatives

C O N S E R V A T I O N

The New Conservation

Wilderness Conservation

Historical Conservation

THE NEW CONSERVATION

The same society which receives the rewards of technology must, as a cooperating whole, take responsibility for control. To deal with these new problems will require a NEW CONSERVATION. We must not only protect the countryside and save it from destruction, we must restore what has been destroyed and salvage the beauty and charm of our cities. Our conservation must be not just the classic conservation of protection and development, but a creative conservation of restoration and innovation. Its concern is not with nature alone, but with the total relation between man and the world around him. Its object is not just man's welfare, but the dignity of man's spirit.

* * *

Our stewardship will be judged by the foresight with which we carry out these programs. We must rescue our cities and countryside from blight with the same purpose and vigor with which, in other areas, we moved to save the forests and the soil.

* * *

It [the beautification of cities] requires attention to the architecture of buildings, the structure of our roads, preservation of historical buildings and monuments, careful planning of new suburbs. A concern for the enhancement of beauty must infuse every aspect of the growth and development of metropolitan areas. It must be a principal

THE NEW CONSERVATION

responsibility of local government, supported by active and concerned citizens.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States
NATURAL BEAUTY MESSAGE
February 8, 1965

We seek now a NEW CONSERVATION--one of people as well as land and resources, one of the metropolitan areas as well as of open country.

--Hubert H. Humphrey
Vice President of the United States

The wise use of our natural environment: it is, in the final analysis, the highest form of national thrift--the prevention of waste and despoilment while preserving, improving, and renewing the quality and usefulness of all our resources.

* * *

Amid this ferment of change, modern conservationists are faced with a far wider range of problems. The great battle of conservation in the Sixties, the Seventies, and the Eighties; and in the coming Century is no longer solely in the preservation of the spectacular. The real conservation fight of the future lies rather in every nook and cranny of this country--the fight is, in short, for the creation of a livable total environment.

* * *

THE NEW CONSERVATION

Our resource problems in the 1960's are measured by the flyway of a bird, the length of a river, the half-life of an element, the path of a wind, the scope of the oceans, the shape of our cities. The years ahead will require both public and private conservation statesmanship of a high order.

--Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior

Yesterday's conservation battles were for superlative scenery, for wilderness, for wildlife. Today's conservation battles are for beautiful cities, for clean water and air, for tasteful architecture, for the preservation of open space.

To meet today's challenge, conservationists must project themselves into the main stream of American life.

* * *

One of the challenges of the NEW CONSERVATION is to develop a proper balance among the necessities of modern life--the need to earn a living and therefore to live where economic opportunity exists; to enjoy the advantages of urban life as well as the advantages of vacationing in the countryside; to have sparkling rivers and remote valleys; and to insure that flights of wild birds will continue to uplift the hearts of men.

* * *

THE NEW CONSERVATION

Open space means many different things. It may be a city park or playground; it may be the beauty of the open road; it may be the challenge of the trackless wilderness. Open space--handsome, meaningful, open space available for enjoyment--is not only a dimension of geography but a dimension of life. The protection of its beauty and the preservation and enhancement of its usefulness are important parts of our total conservation.

--George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director of the National Park Service

Today, we face perhaps the gravest--certainly the most stimulating--challenge in the history of conservation. It is the challenge to build a quality society--one in which we manage not just to preserve the delicate balance between the needs of our people and the natural resources of our land, but actually to improve the heritage which has been handed to us.

--Quest for Quality
A 1965 Publication of the
Department of the Interior

Conservation today means far more than just preserving our natural resources. It means their wise use and protection so that more and more people may enjoy and benefit from them. Only in so doing may our individual human resources be enriched.

--Laurance S. Rockefeller

THE NEW CONSERVATION

The nature of the traditional conservation challenge has been fundamentally altered. The new conservation does not signal a turning away from the traditional conservation arena. On the contrary, it calls for applying the experience and the stamina of conservation leadership to a broader range of objectives--to the quality of the total physical environment, and ultimately to the character of the American people.

--Frank Gregg
Vice President of
The Conservation Foundation

Total human environment is what we're trying to save, not just the rivers and the swamps.

--Sigurd F. Olson

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

In isolation from Nature lies the danger of man's isolation from his fellows and from his Creator. We seek to guarantee our children a place to walk and plan and commune with Nature.

* * *

In a thousand unseen ways we have drawn shape and strength from the land....The house of America is founded upon our land and if we keep that whole, then the storm can rage, but the house will stand forever.

* * *

The wonder of Nature is the treasure of America. What we have in woods and forest, valley and stream, in the gorges and the mountains and the hills, we must not destroy. The precious legacy of preservation of beauty will be our gift to posterity.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

In the 1960's resource conservation must concern itself with all actions and activities that affect our overall environment--from the pesticide residue in the penguins in the Antarctic to safeguarding the polar bear in the Arctic.

* * *

But in our pride and zeal to preserve our monuments, we must always be mindful of the natural environment in which they are placed. Polluted waterways, devastated forests, destruction of the wildlife and natural beauty which once abounded in this great Nation have brought us to a very real, if quiet, crisis.

* * *

The hour is late, the opportunities diminish with each passing year, and we must establish here a Common Market of conservation knowledge which will enable us to achieve our highest goals and broadest purposes. With each day that passes the natural world shrinks as we exert greater artificial control over our environment.

* * *

Few of us can hope to leave a poem or a work of art to posterity; but working together or apart, we can yet save meadows, marshes, strips of seashore, and stream valleys as a green legacy for the centuries.

--Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. By land is meant all of the things on, over, or in the earth. Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left....The land is one organism. Its parts, like our own parts, compete with each other and cooperate with each other.

--Aldo Leopold
1886 - 1948

An unwritten compact between the dead, the living and the unborn requires that we leave the unborn something more than debts and depleted natural resources.

--A Washington State Court Decision

The conservation clock is ticking too fast to be turned back.

--The Race for Inner Space
A 1964 Publication of the
Department of the Interior

The Outdoors lies deep in American tradition. It has had immeasurable impact on the Nation's character and on those who made its history....Today's challenge is to assure all Americans permanent access to their outdoor heritage.

--Outdoor Recreation for America
The 1962 Report of the
Outdoor Recreation Resources
Review Commission

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

Conservation is intelligent cooperation with Nature.

--Unknown

We must reaffirm our dedication to the sound practices of conservation which can be defined as the highest form of national thrift--the prevention of waste and despoilment while preserving, improving and renewing the quality and usefulness of all our resources.

--John Fitzgerald Kennedy
President of the United States
from 1961 to 1963

The face and character of our country are determined by what we do with America and its resources.

--Thomas Jefferson
President of the United States
from 1801 to 1809

God has lent us the earth for our life.

It is a great entail.

It belongs as much to those who follow us as it does to us
And we have no right, by anything we may do or neglect to do,
To involve them in unnecessary penalties,
Or to deprive them of the benefit
Which we have in our power to bequeath.

--John Ruskin
1819 - 1900

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

A town is saved, not more by the righteous men in it than by the woods and swamps that surround it....

--Henry David Thoreau
1817 - 1862

Without enough wilderness America will change. Democracy, with its myriad personalities and increasing sophistication, must be fibred and vitalized by regular contact with outdoor growths--animals, trees, sun, warmth and free skies--or it will dwindle and pale.

--Walt Whitman
1819 - 1892

The conservation of natural resources is the key to the future. It is the key to the safety and prosperity of the American people, and all the people of the world, for all time to come. The very existence of our Nation, and all the rest, depends on conserving the resources which are the foundation of its life.

--Gifford Pinchot
Chief Forester of the United States
from 1898 to 1910

Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees....

--Revelations 7:3

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

The Nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.

--Theodore Roosevelt
President of the United States
from 1901 to 1909

Let us preserve our silent sanctuaries for in them we perpetuate the eternal perspectives.

--Greek Philosopher

We cannot command nature except by obeying her.

--Francis Bacon
1561 - 1626

Accuse not Nature. She hath done her part; do thou but thine.

--John Milton
1608 - 1674

You may frequently win a battle, but you can never win the war. Whenever one threat is put down, another immediately arises; the struggle is endless, and conservationists must always be ready to rally their forces for another fight. Even triumphs carry their own dangers.

--Alfred A. Knopf

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

Wilderness areas...are great reservoirs of the serene order of nature.

--Donald Culross Peattie
1898 - 1964

We no longer destroy great works of art. They are treasured, and regarded as of priceless value, but we have yet to attain the state of civilization where the destruction of a glorious work of Nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species of mammal or bird, is regarded with equal abhorrence.

--Henry Fairfield Osborn
1857 - 1935

The key to modern conservation is to strike a reasonable balance between national growth and expansion on the one hand, and a recreation and the wilderness on the other. It is a challenge at all levels of government--National, State, local.

--Kansas City Star
1963

It [wilderness] is a place where trees grow that were not planted, and a man can walk and he is not trespassing.

He can spend a day or a week or as long as he wants, soaking into his being the stillness of the mountains, that brings healing peace to man. He sees the creeks running free and clear, with fish in quiet

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

pools. While he sits on the trunk of a fallen tree and eats his lunch, he looks at all that is around him, and his mind is not closed to understanding, but listens to the voice of the stillness that is the mountains. And he listens to the story of how the half-rotten tree trunk he is using for both chair and table came to be there, at the edge of the clearing.

--Frances Zaunmiller
Correspondent to the Idaho County Free Press, Grangeville, Idaho

Let's get away from the idea that man is always and invariably an intruder in the wilderness, in nature. He has changed nature greatly, sometimes wisely, sometimes with the most appalling lack of wisdom. But man is as much a part of nature and the natural scene as a sequoia or a bear or an eagle. For some reason, we consider the Indian in his ancient habitat a part of the natural scene; actually all men are part of it. The more they make themselves a part of it without changing it foolishly, the better off they are.

--Herbert Evison
Former Chief of Information
National Park Service

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

--Aldo Leopold
1886 - 1948

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

The world is full of interesting things. We live on 10 inches of topsoil. All plant life is nourished by it. Below is rock. If the topsoil blows away, all vegetables and trees will die. If they die, the animals will go. Including us. The earth then will consist of seas and deserts.

--Unknown

Conservation is an idea whose time has come. It is obvious that man has fulfilled an ancient directive to "be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it." Now he must learn to understand the ecological consequences of his conquest.

--Ernest Brooks

For a nation that grows more metropolitan and industrialized every year, the experience of solitude, even the simple fact of quiet, has become inestimable....It is imperative to maintain portions of the wilderness untouched, so that a tree will rot where it falls, a waterfall will pour its curve without generating electricity, a trumpeter swan may float on uncontaminated water--and moderns may at least see what their ancestors knew in their nerves and blood.

--Bernard DeVoto
1897 - 1955

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

Over a period of years we have come to appreciate more and more the wonder and wisdom of Nature's infinite plan for the survival of her creatures. But sometimes Nature's design is changed by civilization. When this happens, we must help Nature preserve her vanishing creatures.

--Walt Disney

A river is a treasure.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes
Associate Justice of the United
States Supreme Court
from 1902 to 1932

He plants trees to benefit another generation.

--Cicero
106 - 43 B.C.

Many years ago a distinguished Frenchman, Marshal Lyautey, asked his gardener to plant a tree, and the gardener said, "Well, this won't flower for a hundred years." And the Marshal said, "In that case, plant it this afternoon."

* * *

Our Nation's progress is reflected in the history of our great river systems. The water that courses through our rivers and streams holds the key to full national development. Uncontrolled, it wipes out homes, lives and dreams, bringing disaster in the form of floods; controlled, it is an

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

effective artery of transportation, a boon to industrial development, a source of beauty and recreation, and the means for turning arid areas into rich and versatile cropland.

--John Fitzgerald Kennedy
President of the United States
from 1961 to 1963

Nature affords few remaining opportunities in the continental United States to see the masterworks of its daughter, the sea, undefiled.

--William V. Shannon

We must extend the concept of wilderness areas so that we'll have some that include estuaries, seashores, enclosed bodies of water and open sea right out to our territorial limits....This must be done or there won't be a foot of the United States seashore that won't be concreted....We must further extend the concept of international oceanic wilderness of uninhabited islands and adjacent oceans.

--Athelstan Spilhaus

There are certain values in our landscape that ought to be sustained against destruction or impairment, though their worth cannot be expressed in money terms. They are essential to our "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness"; this Nation of ours is not so rich it can afford

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION

to lose them; it is still rich enough to afford to preserve them.

--Newton B. Drury
Director of the National Park Service
from 1940 to 1951

In defying Nature, in destroying Nature, in building an arrogantly selfish, man-centered, artificial world, I do not see how man can gain peace or freedom or joy. I have faith in man's future, faith in the possibilities latent in the human experiment: but it is faith in man as a part of Nature...faith in man sharing life, not destroying it.

--Marston Bates

HISTORICAL CONSERVATION

The permeating and all-pervasive virtue of the freedom which challenges us in America to make the most of every gift and power we possess, every page of our history serves to emphasize and illustrate.

--Thomas Woodrow Wilson
President of the United States
from 1913 to 1921

To work merely for the present constitutes, from all points of view, a betrayal of human obligations.

--René Dubos

It has been said that a nation that has no past has no future, and the nation that does not treasure the relics of its past does not deserve a future.

--Unknown

Whenever the past ceases to be the great and reliable reference book of human problems; wherever, above all, the experience of the father becomes irrelevant to the trials and searchings of the son--there the foundations of man's...health and stability begin to crumble....

--George Kennan

HISTORICAL CONSERVATION

History is no longer a record of past events. It is an illuminating account of the expanding life of man in all its manifestations, revealing how each stage of civilization grows out of preceding stages, revealing how the past still lives in us and still dominates us, and enabling us to profit by what has gone on before. So considered, history is inspirational.

--Kansas Supreme Court

The Fathers...did not erase the Past, but linked it by firm ties to the Future.

--Homer
Eighth Century, B.C.

The generations of living things pass in swift succession, and like runners in a race they hand on the torch of life.

--Lucretius
99 - 55 B.C.

Happy he, who with bright regard looks back upon his father's fathers, who with joy recounts their deeds of grace, and in himself, values the latest link in the fair chain of noble sequence.

--Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
1749 - 1832

HISTORICAL CONSERVATION

Remove not the ancient landmarks, which thy fathers have set.

--Proverbs 22:28

Revere the land of our fathers.

--Thomas Bulfinch
1796 - 1867

Let us, while waiting for new monuments, preserve the ancient monuments.

--Victor Hugo
1802 - 1885

How is the spirit of a free people to be formed and animated and cheered, but out of the storehouse of its historical recollections?

--Edward Everett
1794 - 1865

...when a society or a civilization **perishes**, one condition may always be found. They forgot where they **came** from. They lost sight of what brought them along. The hard beginnings were forgotten and the struggles farther along. They became satisfied with themselves. Unity and common understanding there had been, enough to overcome rot and dissolution, enough to break through their obstacles. But the mockers came. And the deniers were heard. And vision and hope faded. And the custom of greeting became "What's the use?" And men whose

HISTORICAL CONSERVATION

forefathers would go anywhere, holding nothing impossible in the genius of man, joined the mockers and deniers. They forgot where they came from. They lost sight of what brought them along.

--Carl Sandburg

To remember is to live.

--Martin Buber

...should we not give thought to what our own civilization will leave for the generations to come? Where are the monuments of today that will still be standing two thousand years hence? Where are the gardens, parks, and avenues of trees made of lasting species and planted in a noble style, that could become increasingly poetical and majestic with added centuries?

--René Dubos

P A R K S

National Parks

Parks of the World

NATIONAL PARKS

I earnestly recommend the establishment of a Bureau of National Parks. Such legislation is essential to the proper management of those wondrous manifestations of Nature, so startling and so beautiful that everyone recognizes the obligations of the Government to preserve them for the edification and recreation of the people...every consideration of patriotism and love of Nature and of beauty and of art requires us to expend money enough to bring all of these natural wonders within easy reach of our people. The first step in that direction is the establishment of a responsible bureau, which shall take upon itself the burden of supervising the parks and of making recommendations as to the best method of improving their accessibility and usefulness.

--William Howard Taft
President of the United States
from 1909 to 1913

Our concern is not to see that each and every part of the country has a National Park System installation. It is to see that all areas of national significance which are worthy of preservation of their scenery, their historical associations, their recreational opportunities, or their scientific interest are preserved.

--Wayne Aspinall
Chairman of the House Interior
and Insular Affairs Committee

NATIONAL PARKS

The National Park Service today exemplifies one of the highest traditions of public service.

--Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior

Our world has changed many times during the ensuing 90-odd years [1872, the founding date of the National Park System], but one constant in this changing world has been our continuing need for parks and quiet places--our need for places of beauty at which we may renew our strength; and our need for places of history where we may draw inspiration from our heritage....

...The National Park idea has been nurtured by each succeeding generation of Americans. Today, across our land, the National Park System represents America at its best.

Each park contributes to a deeper understanding of the history of the United States and our way of life; of the natural processes which have given form to our land, and to the enrichment of the environment in which we live.

--George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director of the National Park Service

The interminable forests should become graceful parks, for use and delight.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1844

NATIONAL PARKS

...AND Wee (Charles II) have given and granted, and wee doe further by these presents for Vs, Our heires and Successors give and grant to Lord Hopton, Lord Jermyyn, Lord Culpeper, Sr John Berkeley, Sr William Morton, Sr Dudley Wyatt and Thomas Culpeper their heires and assignes full faculty, power and authority at all tymes hereafter, and in such place or places as to them shall seeme fitt and convenient (the same place or places beeing parcell of the premisses hereby granted) to erect One or more Parke or Parkes for the breeding, feeding and sustentacon of Deere and other wild beasts of Chase And that they may enclose, imparke, and impale such Parke or Parkes with walls, payles, rayles or such materials as to them shall seem fitt and convenient. And beeing so imparked and inclosed may have and Hold and enjoy such Parke and Parkes forever without any molestacon perturbacon or interruption of Vs Our heires or Successors or any of our Justices, Ministers or Officers....

--The First Patent of the Proprietary
of the Northern Neck of Virginia
September 18, 1649

What a beautiful and thrilling specimen for America to preserve and hold up to the view of her refined citizens and the world in future ages! A nation's Park, containing man and beast, in all the wild and freshness of their nature's beauty.

--George Catlin, 1832

NATIONAL PARKS

Why should not we...have our national preserves...in which the bear and panther, and some even of the hunter race, may still exist, and not be "civilized off the face of the earth"...for inspiration and our true re-creation? Or should we, like villians, grub them all up for poaching on our own national domains?

--Henry David Thoreau
1817 - 1862

Yosemite Valley - 1864 - 1964

On June 30, 1864, the United States granted the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California to "be held for public use, resort, and recreation...inalienable for all time." This Act, signed by President Abraham Lincoln, was the first Federal Authorization to preserve scenic and scientific values for public benefit. It was the basis for the later concept of State and National Park Systems. In 1906, the State of California returned the land considered the first state park in the country so that it could become part of the Yosemite National Park.

--Plaque placed by the California State Park Commission in cooperation with the California History Commission and the National Park Service in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Yosemite Grant, June 30, 1964

NATIONAL PARKS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: that the tract of land in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming, lying near the head-waters of the Yellowstone River...is hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale under the laws of the United States, and dedicated and set apart as a public park and pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.

--Act of March 1, 1872 (17 Stat.32)
Establishing Yellowstone National
Park

With the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, the Congress gave a new dimension to the conservation effort of our Nation. This dimension provided that portions of our great natural heritage should be set aside and managed for other than immediate material gains and riches. This policy is now firmly imbedded in the public land management policy and programs of the Nation.

--George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director of the National Park Service

The Antiquities Act of 1906...extended the earlier public land policy relating to natural parks to provide authority for the President, by proclamation, to set aside as National Monuments "...historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or

NATIONAL PARKS

scientific interest that are situated upon lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States...."

--Road to the Future
A 1964 Publication of the
Department of the Interior

The Congressional Act creating the National Park Service a bureau under the Department of the Interior was signed by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916. Frederick Law Olmsted composed the historic paragraph in the Act which has guided the administration and development of the entire National Park System until this day. It specified that "the Service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations, hereinafter specified, by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

--Unknown

In studying new park projects, we should seek to find scenery of supreme and distinct quality, or some natural feature so extraordinary

NATIONAL PARKS

or unique as to be of national interest and importance. We should seek distinguished examples of typical forms of world architecture.

--Franklin Knight Lane
Secretary of the Interior
from 1913 to 1920

The parks do not belong to one state or to one section. They have become democratized. The Yosemite, the Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon are national properties in which every citizen has a vested interest; they belong as much to the man of Massachusetts, of Michigan, of Florida, as they do to the people of California, of Wyoming, and of Arizona.

* * *

Who will gainsay that the parks contain the highest potentialities of national pride, national contentment, and national health? A visit inspires love of country; begets contentment; engenders pride of possession; contains the antidote for national restlessness. It teaches love of nature, of trees and flowers, the rippling brooks, the crystal lakes, the snow-clad mountains peaks, the wild life encountered everywhere amid native surroundings. He is a better citizen with a keener appreciation of the privilege of living here who has toured the national parks.

--Stephen Tyng Mather
First Director of the National
Park Service
from 1917 to 1929

NATIONAL PARKS

The Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935, established "...a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States."

* * *

The Park, Parkway and Recreation Area Study Act of June 23, 1936, authorized, among other things, studies looking toward the development of the National Park System including areas having primary recreational significance.

--Road to the Future

The term National Park System is a meaningful one. National designates ownership, responsibility, interest, importance and quality. System implies a variety of units, combined to form an organic whole with common control and balance. The distinctive word is park for it designates a specific type of land use, perpetuity, purpose and visual character.

--Robert Coates

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.

--John Muir
1838 - 1914

NATIONAL PARKS

America's national parks will ultimately contribute more to the moral strength of the nation than all the law libraries in the land.

* * *

There is no better service we can render to the masses of the people than to set about and preserve for them wide spaces of fine scenery for their delight.

--James Bryce
British Ambassador to the United
States
from 1907 to 1913

In no other way is the upward trend of our modern civilization so well exemplified as in the establishment, development, and increasing use of our National Park and Monument System....Where once the best in scenery, as well as in everything else, was reserved for the use of those most favored, and for the pleasure of kings and princes, today every American citizen or visitor to our shores may enjoy the most priceless offerings of nature. Democracy is believed to be still in the experimental stage, but surely any system that institutes and makes successful such a magnificent experiment cannot fail of its ultimate purpose.

--Ray Lyman Wilbur
Secretary of the Interior
from 1929 to 1933

NATIONAL PARKS

The National Parks are more than the storehouses of Nature's rarest treasures. They are the playlands of the people, wonderlands easily accessible to the rich and the humble alike. They are great out-of-doors recreation grounds, where men, women, and children can forget the cares and the sounds of the cities for a few days. The serenity of the mountains and the forests is contagious.

--Horace M. Albright
Director of the National Park Service
from 1929 to 1933 and
Frank J. Taylor

The founders of the National Park System acted wisely when they had the first national park set apart. Not set apart to be uselessly hoarded as a miner hoards his idle gold, but set apart for definite, prescribed uses; to work for the Nation's welfare, just as properly invested capital works and accrues benefits for the investor.

--Arno B. Cammerer
Director of the National Park Service
from 1933 to 1940

The American way of life consists of something that goes greatly beyond the mere obtaining of the necessities of existence. If it means anything, it means that America presents to its citizens an opportunity to grow mentally and spiritually, as well as physically. The National Park System and the work of the National Park Service constitute one of the Federal Government's important contributions to that opportunity.

NATIONAL PARKS

Together, they make it possible for all Americans--millions of them at first-hand--to enjoy unspoiled the great scenic places of the Nation; to know what it was like before it was touched by civilization and before its resources began to be exploited commercially or modified by settlement and by agriculture and industry. The National Park System also provides, through areas that are significant in history and prehistory, a physical as well as spiritual linking of present-day Americans with the past of their country. This cultural attribute is a value in which the National Park Service areas make unique contribution.

* * *

Most of the people who visit the parks, whether they realize it or not or whether they put it into words, are impelled to visit them because of the quest for a supreme experience. The gleam of glaciers on a mighty mountain; the shimmering beauty of a lake indescribably blue, resting in the crater of an extinct volcano; the thunder and mist of water falling over sculptured granite cliffs; the colorful chapter in the Book of Time revealed by the strata of a mile-high canyon gashed by a rushing river; the sight of strange, new plants and animals living in natural adaptation to their environment and to each other; the roar of surf waging its eternal battle with the land; the silence that hangs over the ruins of the habitations of forgotten peoples; the lengthening shadows of the towering Sequoias--these and a thousand other vivid impressions are at the heart of the experience that national park visitors

NATIONAL PARKS

travel many miles to seek. All else that they do or that we do in the National Parks is incidental. If we can remember this, we can remain true to our high calling as trustees for the greater things of America.

* * *

The young people of today are the lawmakers, the scientists, the industrialists, the conservationists, the cattlemen, and the lumbermen of tomorrow. It is vitally important that they learn today the values of national parks and the principles underlying their preservation. For they will have the say tomorrow as to what becomes of these properties of the people.

--Newton B. Drury
Director of the National Park Service
from 1940 to 1951

The areas administered by the National Park Service have been set aside to preserve a precious part of our national heritage. It is not always realized, however, that this heritage requires sympathetic study and presentation if it is to be of maximum benefit to the public. The interpretative service is designed to fulfill this need and to contribute to the national education and to the maintenance of confidence in the American way of living. This service may well be a potent force in maintaining national equilibrium in the trying times which appear to lie ahead.

--Arthur E. Demaray
Director of the National Park Service
1951

NATIONAL PARKS

National parks...are the crown jewels, representing the finest and most superlative scenic wonders we can offer.

* * *

In this country public parks pioneered the use of the land for the satisfaction of man's spiritual and physical needs. That pioneering has produced offshoots and counterparts, each supporting and supplementing the other.

--Conrad L. Wirth
Director of the National Park Service
from 1951 to 1964

The elements of primary interest in these parks are of many types. They include some of the greatest known illustrations of magnitude, power, beauty and antiquity. We know that their influence removes us for the moment from the wearing routine of the commonplace, and develops an attitude of mind favorable to enjoyment of thought on our greater personal problems.

--John C. Merriam
1869 - 1945

Parks are the dietetics of the soul--a refuge, a place to regain spiritual balance and find strength and, if needed, a place of resignation from the turbulent world without.

--Richard Lieber
1869 - 1944

NATIONAL PARKS

There is nothing so American as our national parks. The scenery and wildlife are native. The fundamental idea behind the parks is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us. The parks stand as the outward symbol of this great human principle.

--Franklin Delano Roosevelt
President of the United States
from 1933 to 1945

The National Park System is a definite expression of the highest in our American code of government--equality for all.

* * *

In the United States the best of our natural scenery and our most interesting scientific and historic places are retained in public ownership, for the benefit and use of all the people.

--Isabelle F. Story
Former Chief of Information
National Park Service

Within National Parks is room--glorious room--room in which to find ourselves, in which to think and hope, to dream and plan, to rest and resolve.

--Enos Mills
1870 - 1922

NATIONAL PARKS

The more you come to know the national parks, the more the hidden assets begin to appear. You never come to the end of them. They are seldom the things the eye first sees; they are nearly never the things avowedly sought.

* * *

So we see that national parks are really national museums. Their purpose is to preserve, in a condition as unaltered as is humanly possible, the wilderness that greeted the eyes of the first white men who challenged and conquered it. It is to insure that the processes of nature can work, without artifice, upon all the living things, as well as the earth forms, within their boundaries. It is to keep intact in the wilderness areas all the historic and prehistoric evidences of occupation by our predecessors.

--Freeman Tilden
Consultant
National Park Service

The public must be encouraged and trained to use the Parks properly as the first step in their conservation.

--Eldridge T. Spencer

National Park Service work is "humanitarian in nature, philosophical in purpose, and you might say cultural in impact. In short, we're not dealing with purely practical considerations. Important though

NATIONAL PARKS

practice may be and inevitable as problems may be, in the back of all this is a feeling of humanitarianism...a philosophy. We're dealing with people and with people's happiness, we're dealing with people's needs."

--Sigurd F. Olson

It is important to **scientific study** and to the health and sanity of man, that there be preserved some unique areas for scientists to observe nature's continuing evolution; for future generations to know historic landmarks as they were when history marked them; for dwellers in a crowded planet to have resort to the grandeur and peace of nature.

--Samuel H. Ordway, Jr.

I think we all agree that a national park is not merely scenery. A national park embodies something that **cannot** be found everywhere--it embodies history, a way of life, primitive experience, early environment. It has the elements capable of providing that lifting of the spirit for which modern civilization is willing to pay so much. A national park is specifically dedicated to these intangible and imponderable qualities. Above all, natural features in a national park should have validity.

--Olaus J. Murie
1889 - 1963

NATIONAL PARKS

The key word mentioned over and over again in National Park legislation is "enjoyment": National Parks have been and will be created, so they may be enjoyed by people now and in the future.

--Daniel B. Beard

We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor...the wilderness with its living and decaying trees, the thunder cloud and the rain...some life pasturing freely where we never wander.

--Henry David Thoreau
1817 - 1862

In God's wildness lies the hope of the world--the great fresh unblighted, unredeemed wilderness. The galling harness of civilization drops off, and the wounds heal ere we are aware.

* * *

If I should be fated to walk no more with Nature, be compelled to leave all I most devoutly love in the wilderness, return to civilization and be twisted into the characterless cable of society, then these sweet, free, cumberless roving will be as chinks and slits on life's horizon, through which I may obtain glimpses of the treasures that lie in God's wilds beyond my reach.

--John Muir
1838 - 1914

NATIONAL PARKS

"Man cannot live by bread alone." --No, nor by cars (even with tail-fins), deep freezers, split levels, split atoms, and TV. We hope that this beautiful area will give deep pleasure to many citizens in the future not only for their well-deserved rest and recreation, but for their realization of quiet hours of contemplation in settings of great natural serenity; the silent renewal of their spirit. And let us not forget the wildlife, and especially the birds of both land and sea. May it give them rest and safety in their travels, and the where-withal more surely to survive and multiply for many centuries of the future.

--Paul Mellon
Cape Hatteras National
Seashore Dedication

Men need to know the elemental challenges that sea and mountains present. They need to know what it is to be alive and to survive when great storms come. They need to unlock the secrets of streams, lakes, and canyons and to find how these treasures are veritable storehouses of inspiration. They must experience the sense of mastery of adversity. They must find a peak or a ridge that they can reach under their own power alone.

--William O. Douglas
Associate Justice of the United
States Supreme Court

NATIONAL PARKS

A national park should be as sacred as a temple.

--Henry van Dyke
1852 - 1933

National Parks are...more than areas of importance for the aesthetic, spiritual, inspirational and educational values inherent in their physiographic and biological features. They are irreplaceable natural laboratories in which scientific studies can be carried out which would not be possible in even the most elaborate and conventional man-made laboratory. In the national parks it is possible to study the structure, interrelations and behavior of biological communities, discover how they are adapted to their environment and compare them with the artificial communities elsewhere created by the clearings, drainage, and contamination, and by the introduction of exotic animals and plants by man. They offer the opportunity to pursue long-term ecological studies difficult, if not impossible, to conduct elsewhere.

--From the Report of an NAS-NRC
Committee to the National Park
Service on Research, 1963

Highest priority should be given to acquisition of areas located closest to population centers and other areas that are immediately threatened. The need is critical--opportunity to place these areas in public ownership is fading each year as other users encroach.

Outdoor Recreation Resources
Review Report, 1963

NATIONAL PARKS

"Recreation is no longer simply having fun." Rather, it involves "the kind of America we have, and want to have, and the kind of people we are and are likely to become."

--Laurance S. Rockefeller

Wilderness and recreation are two sides of the same coin.

--Editorial in The New York Times
March 8, 1964

The national parklands have a major role in providing superlative opportunities for outdoor recreation, but they have other "people serving" values. They can provide an experience in conservation education for the young people of the country; they can enrich our literary and artistic consciousness; they can help create social values; contribute to our civic consciousness; remind us of our debt to the land of our fathers.

--Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior

We are going to acquire our places of recreation where they will do the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States
Signing Ceremony of
ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE
September 21, 1965

PARKS OF THE WORLD

The National Park idea, born...in Yellowstone 90-odd years ago, is a unique American contribution to world culture. It has inspired some 80 nations all around the world to establish national parks and similar preserves.

--George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director of the National Park Service

The dedication of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is a further gesture of good will that has so long blessed our relations with our Canadian neighbors, and I am fortified by the hope and faith that it will forever be an appropriate symbol of permanent peace and friendship.

--Herbert Clark Hoover
President of the United States
from 1929 to 1933

The extinction of beautiful animal species and the destruction of their habitat in distant parts of the world are, in the final reckoning, as much the concern of the Amsterdam bus driver as of the captain of New York's Staten Island ferry.

--Bernhard
Prince of the Netherlands

PARKS OF THE WORLD

Growth and development of national park and reserve programs throughout the world are important to the welfare of the people of every nation. We must have places where we can find release from the tensions of an increasingly industrialized civilization, where we can have personal contact with the natural environment which sustains us. To this end, permanent preservation of the outstanding scenic and scientific assets of every country, and of the magnificent and varied wildlife which can be so easily endangered by human activity, is imperative. National parks and reserves are an integral aspect of intelligent use of natural resources. It is the course of wisdom to set aside an ample portion of our national resources as national parks and reserves, thus ensuring that future generations may know the majesty of the earth as we know it today.

--John Fitzgerald Kennedy
President of the United States
from 1961 to 1963
FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE MESSAGE
June 23, 1962

The national parks...should be looked upon as open books of nature, repositories of knowledge, on which every plant, herb, tree, animal, bird, insect and reptile forms a page....Life histories, habits and behavior of animals and birds should be completed in these parks, and not solely within the four walls of the schools and colleges.

--M. A. Badshah
Wildlife Officer, India
First World Conference on
National Parks, 1962

PARKS OF THE WORLD

National parks fill the need for outdoor laboratories and "benchmarks" for the comparative studies of different forms of land use, the inter-relationships of the climate, soil, vegetation and fauna of various habitats, the effect on human ecology, and the need for close coordination of methods and areas of research. The international aspects and significance of such are obvious.

--Gerald G. Watterson
Secretary-General of the
International Union for the Conservation of Nature and
Natural Resources, Switzerland
First World Conference on
National Parks, 1962

I believe that wherever unusual features of nature appear and need to be preserved, the creation of a boundary park may prove an essential factor in cementing international cooperation and maintaining peace.

--Walery Goetel
Committee for Protection of Nature
and Natural Resources, Poland
First World Conference on
National Parks, 1962

The cultural values of national parks are...of the utmost importance. In the parks, the old and the new meet; the parks remain, in many instances, the only places where the present generation can look back and plan its future by experiences which have been the guiding lights of the past. It is in places like this that one can commune with nature,

PARKS OF THE WORLD

where the theologian and the philosopher, the artist and the poet, the preacher and the author, the tradesman and the teacher, the housewife and the child, the musician and the scientist--in brief, all normal humans--can find inspiration for their various careers, and where balanced personalities and characters may be formed.

--Rocco Knobel
Director of the National Parks of
the Republic of South Africa
First World Conference on
National Parks, 1962

N A T U R A L B E A U T Y

Natural Beauty

Natural Beauty Benefits

NATURAL BEAUTY

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

--Katherine Lee Bates
1859 - 1929

NATURAL BEAUTY

Beauty belongs to all the people.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States
Signing Ceremony of the
HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION ACT
October 22, 1965

It [The Great Society] is a place where leisure is a welcome chance to build and reflect, not a feared cause of boredom and restlessness. It is a place where the city of man serves not only the needs of the body and the demands of commerce, but the desire for beauty and hunger for community.

It is a place where man can renew this contact with nature.

* * *

Once our natural splendor is destroyed, it can never be recaptured. And once man can no longer walk with beauty or wonder at nature, his spirit will wither and his sustenance be wasted.

Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States

The beauty of our land is a natural resource. Its preservation is linked to the inner prosperity of the human spirit....Our land will be attractive tomorrow only if we organize for action and rebuild and reclaim the beauty we inherited.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States
NATURAL BEAUTY MESSAGE
February 8, 1965

NATURAL BEAUTY

We can introduce into all our planning, our programs, our building and our growth, a conscious and active concern for the values of beauty. If we do this, we can be successful in preserving a Beautiful America.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States

We know, too, that men who want to further both the beauty and bounty of America must constantly search for the right balance between development and preservation of resources.

--Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior

Beauty, spiced with wonder, is the greatest lure to travel.

--Confucius
591 - 479 B.C.

Plant spacious parks in your cities and unloose their gates as wide as the gates of the morning to the whole people as there are no dark places at noonday, so education and culture--the true sunshine of the soul--will banish the plague spots of democracy.

Andrew Jackson Downing
1815 - 1852

NATURAL BEAUTY

...if eyes were made for seeing,

Then beauty is its own excuse for being.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson
1803 - 1882

No synonym for God is so perfect as Beauty. Whether as seen carving the lines of the mountains with glaciers, or gathering matter into stars, or planning the movements of water, or gardening--still all is Beauty.

--John Muir
1838 - 1914

Natural beauty and wonder are priceless heirlooms which God has bestowed upon our nation. How shall we escape the contempt of the coming generations if we suffer this irreplaceable heritage to be wasted?

--Henry van Dyke
1852 - 1933

I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all.

--Ogden Nash

NATURAL BEAUTY

Ugliness is not an inevitable cost of modernity.

--William O. Douglas
Associate Justice of the United
States Supreme Court

A beautiful America will require the effort of government at every level, of business, and of private groups.

--Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson
First Lady of the Land

NATURAL BEAUTY BENEFITS

Association with beauty can enlarge man's imagination and revive his spirit. Ugliness can demean the people who live among it. What a citizen sees every day is his America. If it is attractive, it adds to the quality of his life. If it is ugly, it can degrade his existence.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States
NATURAL BEAUTY MESSAGE
February 8, 1965

If every single American could spend a few days a year contemplating the natural beauty which surrounds us and begs for our attention, half the frustrations and anxieties of our population would disappear overnight.

* * *

We must maintain the chance for contact with beauty. When that chance dies, a light dies in all of us.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States

The creation of beauty is a happy experience...it adds to one's sense of self-respect and joy.

* * *

Ugliness is bitterness.

* * *

NATURAL BEAUTY BENEFITS

Ugliness is so grim. A little beauty, something that is lovely...
can help create harmony which will lessen tensions.

--Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson
First Lady of the Land

Go forth, under the open sky, and list to Nature's teachings.

--William Cullen Bryant
1794 - 1878

Appreciation of landscape beauty comes late in man's progress from the primitive to the civilized state, just as it comes to an individual at a stage beyond early childhood. Once started in a person or society, this appreciation grows, and ultimately becomes identified with the innermost responses of a national consciousness or an individual soul.

--Don Greame Kelley

In the woods is perpetual youth.

* * *

The health of the eye demands a horizon.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson
1803 - 1882

NATURAL BEAUTY BENEFITS

For I have learned
To look on nature, not as in the hour
Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes
The still, sad music of humanity,
Nor harsh nor grating, though of ample power
To chasten and subdue.

* * *

One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of man
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages can.

--William Wordsworth
1770 - 1850

In wildness is the preservation of the world.

--Henry David Thoreau
1817 - 1862

We are the children of the earth and removed from her our spirit
withers.

--George Macaulay Trevelyan
1876 - 1962

NATURAL BEAUTY BENEFITS

Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons,
It is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with
the earth.

* * *

I loaf and invite my soul.

* * *

Give me solitude, give me Nature, give me again O Nature your
primal sanities!

--Walt Whitman
1819 - 1892

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings;
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine
into flowers;
The winds will blow their freshness into you
and the storms their energy, and cares
will drop off like autumn leaves.

--John Muir
1838 - 1914

The land was ours before we were the land's.

--Robert Frost
1875 - 1963

NATURAL BEAUTY BENEFITS

We inherited the loveliest of all continents. We should bequeath it to our grandchildren as a land where the majority is disciplined to respect the values even of a minority. Those values are esthetic or spiritual, and they reflect the principle that beauty is an end in itself and that man will find relaxation, renewed strength and inspiration in the wildness of the earth.

We should leave behind a land where those yet unborn will have an opportunity to hear the calls of loons and come to know that they are more glorious than any whirl of motors.

--William O. Douglas
Associate Justice of the United
States Supreme Court

I love the man who loves the wood,
Whate'er his creed, whate'er his blood.
I may not know his native land;
His creed I may not understand;
But, when we meet within the wood,
There each is silent--understood.

--Douglas Mallock

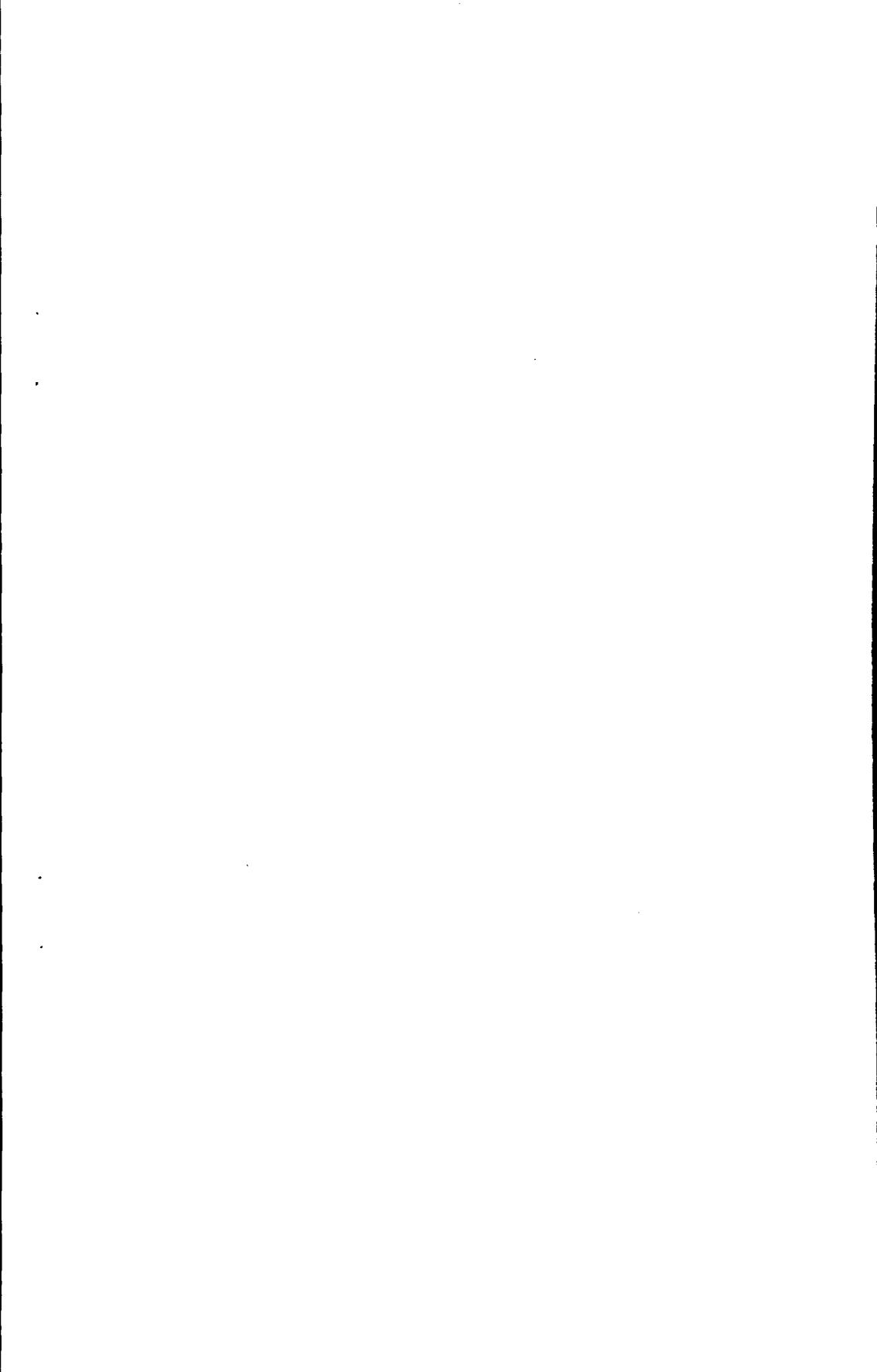
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