

# The Daily Progress

Charlottesville,  
Virginia



Monday Afternoon,  
September 24, 1973

George Bowles, Editorial Page Editor

## Your Right to Say It

### Letter to Sen. Scott

Editor, The Daily Progress

The following is a copy of a letter I have written to Senator Scott:

I was deeply disturbed by an article Wednesday about your opposition to Senator Jackson's bill to preserve some of Virginia's wilderness in its natural state.

I am a member of a Scout troop that frequently goes hiking in Shenandoah National Park. Unfortunately, because of Skyline Drive there is no place in the park that is very difficult to get to. Therefore the park is crowded and many of the people who use it do not care about what condition they leave it in.

I recently was fortunate enough to go to Yosemite National Park. I noticed that in the camping areas in which it is possible to pitch your tent right by your car the campers had little interest in what the area looks like when they leave. They throw their trash around and leave the remains of their meals lying on the ground. However, when you climb out of the valley into areas where people cannot drive their campers and have to get out and hike to, they seem to care more about the wilderness. They carry out their trash and are more careful not to harm the natural surroundings.

During your youth it was no doubt possible to hike and fish in many easily accessible areas without being overwhelmed by masses of car driving, beer bottle throwing campers.

Sadly, such is no longer the case. The easier it becomes to get to a place the less the people who come seem to care about how the wilderness looks when they leave. Virginia badly needs some wilderness that is inaccessible enough to keep it preserved from people who do not respect it.

I hope that you will not deprive this and future generations of something yours has always taken for granted.

Bill Harbaugh  
Member, Scout Troop 19  
Charlottesville, Va.