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Richard D. Schultz

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TESTIMONY OF  
RICHARD D. SCHULTZ  
DIRECTOR, ST. LOUIS ZOOLOGICAL PARK  
before the  
SENATE LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ART AND HUMANITIES  
re  
Reauthorization for the Institute of Museum Services

Washington, D.C.  
June 28, 1979

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Richard D. Schultz, and I am the Director of the St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis, Missouri. At the outset, let me say that I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss reauthorization legislation for the Institute of Museum Services (IMS).

As we know, the IMS was created by Congress in 1976 for the purpose of assisting our nation's museums with a program of general operating and specific project support grants. Historically, zoos have been excluded by definition or interpretation from participating in most government programs; however, the IMS funding assistance is proving to be a welcome financial relief to our nation's zoos. The recent addition of IMS has added a new dimension to federal funding of zoological institutions by providing general operating support for zoos. Until IMS was created, many of our nation's zoos had no access to federal funding as IMS is the only federal cultural agency which makes grants to all types of museums to defray general operating expenses.

The St. Louis Zoological Park was originally founded in 1916, and is the only major zoological facility within a radius of almost 300 miles. Our institution serves approximately 2 million people annually with primary objectives of collection and exhibition of wildlife; instruction and recreation for the public; encouragement of zoological study; and conservation for the protection of wildlife resources. In addition,

the St. Louis Zoological Park, and other zoological facilities, play a vital role in the zoological education of the public and in the conservation of rare and endangered species.

In addition to IMS general operating expense assistance, zoological parks and aquariums need federal assistance in the construction of new exhibits and the renovation of existing exhibits. Most zoological parks are striving to display their wildlife in meaningful exhibits; however, renovation and construction costs are staggering and often cause the zoological institutions to delay implementing needed changes. Although the IMS federal programs provide operating assistance to our nation's zoological facilities, construction and renovation costs are excluded from IMS assistance.

Almost without exception, every zoo in the United States today either has already or will soon approach a devastating need for operating funds. As is the case with the St. Louis Zoo, along with the rest of our nation's zoos, inflation is deferring many zoological projects and improvements. The St. Louis Zoo will require additional sources of funds to meet its operating needs or it will be forced to curtail its operations. Hence, the IMS provides us with the opportunity to achieve some of our internal goals through federally funded operational expense assistance.

It should be noted that zoos are among the most popular public facilities in the world providing aesthetic and cultural opportunities to the general public. Nationally, more people attend zoos than attend

all combined major league sporting events. In addition to aesthetic and cultural public awareness programs, zoos are constantly pursuing research methods to develop better propagation for rare and endangered species in order to prevent the loss of such species to the world. The St. Louis Zoological Park recently achieved a major scientific breakthrough with the first birth from artificial insemination of an exotic antelope. While conception by artificial insemination of domestic animals is not uncommon, zoos all over the world have been attempting to achieve similar success with exotic animals. If such accomplishments are to continue at zoos throughout the United States, funds must be made available for operational expenses at all zoos and for special projects at some of our nation's smaller zoological institutions. The funds available through the Museum Services Act are an important source of such funds.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate that the IMS has in effect been the only federal agency in the country which has provided general operating support for museums. Since there are approximately 6,000 museums in the country, the scope of the project is obvious. Zoological facilities, museums, science museums, botanical gardens, aquariums, and many other kinds of institutions are visited far more than those museums which are funded, and do not receive a proportionate share of federal support. In addition, I strongly support an increased budget for IMS, and respectfully suggest that the IMS be given the authority to institute a challenge grant program within IMS, or a similar type of program, which would provide major funding for museums of all kinds, including zoological institutions.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared statement. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have or to be of other assistance to the Subcommittee.