

THE  
**AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY**

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003

Please Reply To: 18600 SW 157 Avenue Miami, FL 33187



March 3, 1980

Mr. Cecil D. Andrus  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Room 6151  
18th and C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Andrus:

I would like to invite you to be the featured speaker at the kick-off ceremonies for the American Hiking Society's HikaNation in San Francisco on April 12th.

The year-long cross-country hike to Washington, D.C. is being co-sponsored by the Interior Department's Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

It's purpose is to emphasize the size of the hiking community (estimated in a 1977 National Outdoor Recreation Survey conducted by the HCRS to be comprised of 28.1 million hikers and backpackers and 61.9 million nature walkers), the lack of sufficient foot trails throughout the U.S. and walking and hiking as the ideal form of recreation for a low-energy future.

The kick-off ceremonies would provide an ideal opportunity to describe the progress the Interior Department is making toward fulfilling President Carter's directive to improve the National Trail System, as outlined in his August 2, 1979 Environmental Message to Congress.

The Cities of San Francisco and Oakland have already passed resolutions supporting the HikaNation and the State of California has given us permission to close off two lanes on the upper deck of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, so we can make our crossing on April 13 -- the first time pedestrians have been allowed to walk across the bridge since it was opened in 1936. This is likely to result in a turn-out of several thousand people and nationwide news coverage.

The kick-off ceremonies will begin at 10:00 am. on April 12 in the Polo Grounds of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. I hope you will join us.

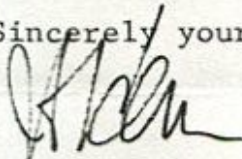
Because time is short, could you let me know by March 15 whether you will be able to attend?

If you wish, you may call me at (305) 251-1400 in the morn-

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Secretary Cecil Andrus

ings (EST), or you may contact our Executive Director,  
Craig Evans, who is currently working with the trails  
staff at HCRS. His telephone number is 343-4793.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Kern', written over the typed name below.

James A. Kern  
President

JAK/nmm