

# SHERWOOD ISLAND BILL FOR \$435,000 SIGNED BY CROSS

Rep. Warncke and Other  
County Legislators Wit-  
ness Ceremony at Capitol.

## PARK TO STAY OPEN

Sum Is \$135,000 Above Ex-  
pectations of Sponsors;  
Will Add 70 Acres.

By STAFF REPORTER

HARTFORD, April 29. — The 22-year-old fight to give Fairfield county a large shorefront State park reached a successful climax late this afternoon as Gov. Cross signed two bills making a total of \$485,000 available for the purchase of land and development of the present State park there. Both bills had been rushed through the House and Senate earlier in the day under suspension of the rules at the Governor's request.

Present in the governor's office as he signed the bills were Rep. George L. Warncke of Wilton who has led the fight in the Appropriations committee for the park for several years, Senator J. Kenneth Bradley of Westport, Reps. Sara B. Crawford and Herbert E. Baldwin of Westport, Rep. Helen B. Kitchel of Greenwich, House chairman of the State Parks and Reservations committee, and former Rep. Alice Rowland of Ridgefield.

The governor smiled as he signed the two bills in the original, making available at once funds for taking up the State's option on the Elwood property before its expiration on Saturday. This will prevent a threatened closing of the park.

Fairfield county legislators were jubilant at the passage of the bill and particularly at the surprise increase of \$135,000 in the funds made available for the work.

### Add \$135,000 Appropriation

On Tuesday the Appropriations committee voted favorably to report a bill for \$350,000 but this was with the understanding that \$135,000 appropriated two years ago and never used for the purchase of land would revert to the general fund.

At a protracted conference in the governor's office this forenoon, which delayed the opening of the Assembly for almost an hour, the governor called on Lucius F. Robinson, chairman of the State Park and Forest commission to explain the proposed program. In his remarks Robinson declared that the \$350,000 proposed was not enough and suggested that the \$135,000 still unexpended be given to the commission in addition. Rep. Warncke pleaded for the extra funds and the governor at once agreed that the full sum be made available.

At his request leaders of both Houses agreed to suspend the rules and push the bills through in speedy fashion. In the House, Rep. Noah H. Swayne of Darien, Republican leader, explained that Attorney General Edward J. Daly had given assurance that the bills, providing for "the acquisition of land or rights in land at Sherwood Island by purchase or otherwise" would enable the State to acquire holdings of the Sherwood Island Co., and Sherwood Point Realty Co., despite a prohibition in the original title deeds against use of the land for other than residential purposes.

### Senator Daly Yields

This opinion of the attorney general and the governor's insistence on passage of the bills dissolved the

doubts raised Wednesday by Senator Matthew A. Daly who had unexpectedly blocked action on the \$350,000 bill.

When the bills reached the Senate Daly urged their passage and Senator E. Gaynor Brennan, Republican leader, commended the bills "as long delayed and much deserved legislation."

The bills will give the commission funds to purchase an additional 70 acres beyond the 48 acres now held by the State, and will provide ready access for the public to nearly a mile of beach front property at the park. Funds will also be available, it is expected, for the erection of bathhouses.

### Sherwood Island Saved

All friends of Sherwood Island park, indeed all friends of the Connecticut State park system, should give a vote of thanks to Governor Cross for having made possible the immediate passage of the Sherwood Island park bills when a blockade threatened.

Thanks to the governor's intercession two measures, one reappropriating an unspent \$135,000 allowed by a previous Legislature, and the other adding a new appropriation of \$350,000 for purchase and improvement of Sherwood Island park lands, were passed yesterday.

These measures come just in time to permit the State to take up its expiring options and secure the desired park property for the public.

Representative George L. Warncke of Wilton, by his incessant work for these bills, prepared the ground. Mr. Warncke's unselfish devotion to the Sherwood Island bills was a fine example of disinterested public service. The Fairfield county legislators were helpful as a group and Noah Swayne as House leader, cleared the pathway for this legislation.

Only in the Senate was a snag struck. There, we believe, the assistance of Governor Cross proved invaluable. When the governor had explained the urgency of these measures and the real need for this park, all opposition was withdrawn. Those who wonder sometimes at the persuasive powers of the governor might take heed of the motto which he keeps on the wall in sight of his desk. It is from Mark Twain, and reads: "Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."

The governor has managed to be right so often that his opinion carries conviction to the Legislature.

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