

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF GAME AND FISH
COMMISSIONERS

Clearwater, Florida

October 19, 1964

I would like to utilize a few minutes in reviewing some of the accomplishments in the activities of this association during the past year and some of the opportunities available to us in the future.

Much of this information is not new to most of you. There are many here however, who are attending these meetings for the first time. We have attempted to orient the sessions toward more participation by administrators which will enable all of us to better understand the sources of aid and information available in all phases of fish and game management and related outdoor recreation activities.

We can point with pride to the association cooperative undertakings in the field of fish and game research. The cooperative wildlife disease and research program with the school of veterinary medicine at Athens, Georgia is in full swing. Dr. Hayes is here to describe these services during the afternoon meeting in this room.

The cooperative statistical project with North Carolina State College is continually providing invaluable assistance in methodology and census work. Dr. Hayne is also here to describe those services.

The southeastern fish disease and parasite study project with Auburn University is now a reality and in operation. Dr. Swingle is here to bring us up to date on that program.

Many of the southeastern states have utilized the A. P. W. funds in accomplishing many worthwhile improvements.

There are but a few of the material cooperative undertakings between this association and other agencies and institutions. We mention these projects to point up the value of close association and understanding between the states concerning their common problems and the most effective and economical means of solving them.

I think it highly important that we, as an association, keep ourselves individually informed of the activities of other organizations who have common interests and objectives. For example, most of the resolutions passed by the international association at Atlantic City last month are of special concern to the southeast. Many of you, of course, were there. However, for the benefit of members of the association who do not actively participate in that meeting I feel it is necessary to review and support those recommendations which are of special concern to us. I, therefore, suggest that the resolutions committee of this association consider this matter and report at the business meeting on Tuesday afternoon. There may be appropriate supporting action which this association can provide to expedite certain measures.

We are all aware of the subsequent conservation measures which were enacted by the late 88th Congress. I am sure many of us have not yet realized the impact of much of this legislation on our future opportunities. We reported as best we could on the sources of grants-in-aid available to states in the wildlife field at the meeting in Atlantic City. At this moment, that report is in a way obsolete.

Let me sidetrack a moment to remind ourselves that the accomplishments of the 88th Congress were not incidental. The conservation measures enacted were the result of a unified, supreme effort by many organizations, individuals, and cooperative associations such as ours who put in countless days of sweat, blood, and tears, as the saying goes. We are extremely grateful and proud that many of the organizations who camped on the hill are represented here today by individuals who played a most prominent part in our behalf and in behalf

of the wildlife resources of our nation.

We are not going to indulge your time now in attempting to analyze all the opportunities available to you in your work. Most of these opportunities will become apparent to you during the afternoon session in this room. We sincerely believe that this meeting is your golden opportunity to meet with the leaders who keep us advised and informed on up-to-the-minute opportunities and how to take advantage of them.

In addition to those mentioned before are Jerome Anderson, regional director of the bureau of outdoor recreation, from Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Anderson will describe the function of that bureau which will administer the land and water conservation fund.

Nelson Cox, past president of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, will summarize the activities of that organization.

Bob Dennis is here representing the Izaak Walton League of America. We are sure Bob will describe the role of the national offices and the state divisions of the league.

Pink Gutermuth representing the Wildlife Management Institute could talk all day about what it takes to get things done on both state and national levels. We will try to hold him to his allotted time.

Walt Gresh, regional director for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, will discuss plans and programs of that service.

James Harlan, conservation consultant in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D. C., is here to help enlighten us on water pollution problems.

Colonel Russ Degroate of the Department of Defense will explain the expanding cooperative wildlife programs between the military and the several states.

Tom Kimmball, director of the National Wildlife Federation, can tell us of the need for united effort in all our objectives.

Ham Miller of the regional office in Atlanta is here to represent the U. S. Forest Service which is the largest agency in terms of wildlife management and multiple use outdoor recreation.

Dick Stroud representing the Sports Fishing Institute keeps us informed of progress in the fisheries fields.

Hollis Williams, assistant administrator of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, is here in the interest of the small watershed projects and programs.

We are grateful for the cooperation of these people in coming to Clearwater to participate in your program. Again, we urge all commissioners and directors to attend the session in this room this afternoon. This will be your opportunity to become personally acquainted with these agency representatives. We have not assigned any of them a specific topic. We know that each of them will have a message none of us can afford to miss.

Now, according to the program we have a fifteen-minute stretch. We want you to relax in Florida, but please be back in fifteen minutes for the second phase of this general session.

General Session
Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners
Clearwater, Florida
October 19, 1964

Mr. Ney Landrum
"Outdoor Recreation Council in Florida"

Mr. Landrum: In keeping with the general theme of this fine meet-