

REMARKS BY FORREST V. DURAND

Southeast Region Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Instant to Turning Over Office of President, Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners to A. D. Aldrich of Florida at the Association's Annual Convention in Hot Springs, Arkansas, September 30, 1963

Mr. Chairman, I am deeply grateful to those who planned this Convention program for permitting me a few minutes to express some things about which I feel very deeply. May I sound the roll of what I consider to be the finest group of men who work in a single cause in this or any other country (name Southeastern Game and Fish Directors by States). When this group elected me to the office of president of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners they accorded me the greatest honor and the most appreciated one I ever expect to receive. By virtue of a recent change in my status another most worthy name has been added to this group, Fred Stanberry of Tennessee. I feel highly privileged to call all of these men my personal friends and that alone is sufficient reward for any effort I may have expended or any small accomplishment I may have made during my tenure of office as a State Game and Fish Director.

Mr. Jerome F. Anderson, our Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Southeastern Regional Director, has assigned to me the responsibility of cooperative services to the states. No assignment could have pleased me more for I feel that as our program unfolds I will be able to continue working with you, indeed as one of you. I hope that you will grant me this privilege.

I have expressed my feeling concerning your leaders. Be assured that my high regard extends to the great many of you I know personally and to all of you as a group. I am cognizant of your problems, your trials, and your difficulties. I am familiar with the paths you follow; whether they encompass the tedious and often disappointing and discouraging tasks of research, management and development; the sweat and anxiety of financial, administrative or legislative tasks or whether on the dim and sometimes dangerous trails of our distant mountains, remote swamps and treacherous waters. Some of you are new at the game and some of you have grown old on the job and literally given your lives to our program. I will never forget that and I give you my pledge to do everything in my power to make the term "Cooperative Services To The States" mean something of which you and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation can be proud in the Southeast.

I could with confidence turn this gavel over to any of the men whose names I have mentioned, but I am particularly pleased to hand it to one of them who is not only a man of status in our own Southeast, but also one of national standing; one who has served as director of two of the states in our association and one who has with distinction held the office of president of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners. I have most profitably to myself, on many occasions, turned to him for advice, counsel, and assistance and I take pleasure at this time in handing the gavel of the office of President of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners to your duly elected Vice-President, Bob Aldrich of Florida.

Biographical Data — Forrest V. Durand

Born: Denham Springs, Louisiana, October 30, 1910.

Education:

Attended public schools in Livingston Parish, Louisiana.
B.S. Degree, Louisiana State University, 1931.
Graduate work in Biology, Louisiana State University.
LL.B. Degree, Jackson College of Law, Jackson, Tennessee.

Military Information:

Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant, 1931.

Graduate of U. S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Aug. 1941-1945: Active duty—served in Continental United States, Arctic and European theater.

Nov. 1948-April 1958: Full-time duty—Tennessee National Guard (first with 117th Infantry Regimental Hq. and later with Hq. Combat Command "C," 30th Armored Division.

June 1959: Appointed Chief of Staff, 30th Armored Division with rank of Colonel.

(For eight consecutive years was member of Tennessee National Guard Rifle Team firing in competition at national matches and also in state, area and regional matches.)

Dec. 1960: Transferred to U. S. Army Reserve with rank of Colonel.

Professional Record:

1931-1934: Biologist with Louisiana Conservation Department.

1935-1941 and

1946-1948: Various assignments with U. S. Soil Conservation Service in States of Tennessee and Kentucky, working principally in field of wildlife management.

Apr. 1958 to

Aug. 1963: Director, Tennessee Game and Fish Commission.

Aug. 1963 to

present: Assistant Regional Director, Cooperative Services Division, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Southeast Region.