

# LAW ENFORCEMENT SESSION

## **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS AT OPENING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SESSIONS, SOUTHEASTERN MEETING, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, OCTOBER 19, 1964.**

ROBERT B. HAZEL

*Chief of Enforcement*  
North Carolina

Before turning the program over to your program chairman, I want to make a few very brief remarks about the program which is to follow, and about the Southeastern Law Enforcement Section.

I have been associated with this organization only for the past eight years, and therefore I will not attempt to give a history of it, since I am not familiar with its activities prior to that time. However, during these past eight years I have seen this Law Enforcement Section develop from a rather small organization with only a scattering of members to a strong organization with many hundreds of members. And where in the early years the organization was kept going almost entirely by a few dedicated individuals, most member states now actively participate in the activities of the Law Enforcement Section. This is commendable progress.

The program at these annual meetings have kept pace with the growth of the organization itself, and the Law Enforcement Section has for a number of years presented programs equally as good as those of the Game, Fisheries, and I and E sections. We believe that this year's program will be the best ever.

Many other worthwhile things have been incorporated into the activities of the Law Enforcement Section during the past several years. Noteworthy among these are the annual presentation of awards to the outstanding officers, and the newsletter circulated to the member states by your Secretary-Treasurer.

Such progress is gratifying, but there remains much that can be done to further improve our Section, and it might be well for a moment to consider the purposes of our organization. The primary purpose of an organization such as this is, of course, to serve its members. There are a number of ways in which it may do this.

First, it serves, through these annual meetings and the newsletter, as a medium of exchange of information. This is very useful. We all profit by being aware of what our fellow officers and organizations are doing. Such exchange of information leads to greater uniformity among the states in such matters as laws and regulations, organization, and ways of doing things. This benefits the sportsmen also, inasmuch as he can expect about the same treatment wherever he goes if uniformity exists.

Second, it helps in building professionalism among its members. We have made much progress in this, but we are all still striving towards the day when fish and game law enforcement officers everywhere will be universally respected as professional enforcement officers of the highest caliber, both by the public and by their fellow workers, and by other law enforcement agencies and the courts. The Law Enforcement Section can play an important part in this.

Third, the Law Enforcement Section if developed to its full potential, can become a powerful force which can be helpful to its members in many ways not yet explored. For example, I can visualize

that at some future date endorsement of a proposed piece of legislation by this group could be influential in helping a member state to get it passed by its legislature.

The potential of this organization is almost unlimited. But this potential can only be reached through combined effort and participation by all of its members. It will take new ideas, much creative thinking, and much voluntary and continued effort. At these meetings, we need not only quality papers, but also good discussion of them. It the business meetings of this organization, we need your ideas and participation. Throughout the year, we need to keep up the exchange of information.

Bear these things in mind during this year's program. Let's have a good meeting.

Now, I will introduce your program chairman, Mr. Dave Swindell, and turn the program over to him.

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## "SUPERVISION OF FIELD OFFICERS"

JAMES L. BAILEY

*Missouri Conservation Commission*

Mr. President, Officers and Members of the Southeast Law Enforcement Association—and our good supporters from other fields of fish, game and forestry management that I see are among those present today—it is a pleasure to be with you, an honor and privilege to have the opportunity to express my opinion in regard to law enforcement supervisory responsibilities.

To men who have responsibilities similar to mine, how many times have you heard the remark—"I wonder who in the devil approved this silly project?" Or how often, the complaint—"I don't have time for enforcement work, because I'm loaded down with unrelated assignments." How frequently have you heard the gripe—"It's getting to the point that you don't know who is 'Boss' in this outfit any more." What encourages such statements? Where should we place the blame? Perhaps complaints of this nature can be attributed to—poor supervision or leadership—inadequate communications—lack of a clear-cut understanding of administrative procedures or policies—and possibly insufficient job knowledge.

Although it is most unlikely, there shall ever come the day that we will be entirely clean of "bitching" of some kind—and a little of such is supposed to be expected and even desirable in an organization of size. However, we can, and should, prevent as much as possible any misunderstanding of special work assignments and complaints regarding operations of the department.

Most wildlife conservation agencies are operating on a "scientific knowledge" basis and—we, who are close to the "hub" of the administrative wheel—may—too often—be guilty of failing to properly inform our subordinates of new developments or to give them sufficient background or reasons on requests for their cooperation in special projects or programs. A few minutes of our time, in explanation—or a memorandum stating in some detail, important phases, purposes, or objectives relative to assignments originating in the Central Office—might prevent considerable waste of time by both supervisors and agents—produce better results—more concise reports—and eliminate grumbling—gripping—and criticism of personnel of other divisions of sections.

Copies of correspondence of relevance to special activity are helpful in informing the men in the field of what's going on "upstairs."