

the state agencies participating. Mr. Aldrich spoke of this earlier. I am happy to say that this has been one of the most gratifying aspects of the whole program. The way in which these agencies have cooperated in this effort. We have undertaken and have very nearly completed an extensive inventory of available outdoor recreational lands in this state. We have instituted measures for a review of all surplus property in the state in order that they be screened for their outdoor recreational potential prior to disposal. Also a review of all state highway projects to determine their effect on outdoor recreation. We have established a very close working liaison with the Federal government through the new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. We hope that we will be in a position to take full advantage of the developments taking place at the Federal level with the new land and water conservation firmed up and we have also set up what we refer to as our fifteen per cent program. While we want to retain most of the money available to the program, until we have this plan to insure that it can be spent properly the Outdoor Recreational Development Council has authorized that fifteen per cent of our current revenue may be used on certain meritorious small projects during this interim. There is a thirty-five thousand ceiling on any one project as well as other criteria which it must meet to qualify. It does mean that we have some flexibility in meeting these day to day requirements. Things that we could not afford to let get by.

We think we are making a lot of progress. All of us at the state level feel very gratified, very good about the direction the program has taken and the progress that it is making. It hasn't all been easy. There has been a lot of uphill battling along the way and we have had a lot of hard work and have had a tremendous public relations job to undertake. We have had a lot of pioneering to do in blazing a new trail but we are making progress. I heard a little story recently that I think adequately describes our situation in Florida. It seems that there was this young boy nine or ten years old whose widowed mother had recently remarried and some of the friends of the family became concerned about the relationship that developed between the boy and his new stepfather. One of them saw the boy one day and he thought he would inquire about it and he said, "Johnny, how are you and your new stepfather getting along?" Johnny said, "Well, fine, he's really a great fellow and we have a lot of interests in common. For instance, we both like outdoor recreation. He has a boat and he likes to go boating and I like to swim. Just last week, he took me out a mile offshore and let me swim back. Boy, he is a great fellow. Just two days ago, he took me five miles offshore and let me swim back. Boy, he really is a nice fellow. And tomorrow he is going to take me ten miles offshore and let me swim back." The man was a little concerned about this and he said, "Johnny, don't you think you better think about this more carefully? Are you sure you can swim that far?" Johnny said, "Heck yes, soon as I get out of that burlap bag, the rest is easy."

Well, I am happy to be able to say that as far as outdoor recreation is concerned, we think Florida is out of the burlap bag, and the swimming, we think, from here on in will be a lot easier. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Randolph Hodges  
Director  
State Board of Conservation

Mr. Hodges: Mr. Aldrich, Congressman Sikes, and our good friends and colleagues in the conservation effort from all over the southeastern

states who have gathered here today with us in Florida to talk about this very important subject of conservation. It is indeed a pleasure to be with you this morning. President Bob said that we're going to somewhere between here and twelve o'clock. I'm the only one left on the program, I believe, beside the Congressman and certainly we are not going to try to catch up time on the Congressman, so I assure you, President Bob, that my remarks will be brief and I'll give you plenty of time to deliver your message which I am sure will be of considerable interest.

First I want to say that in 1961 when I became Director of Conservation in Florida, the first thing I called on our personnel to do was to cooperate very closely with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. I regret to say that in the past I don't always think this has been true, but I want to say, Director Aldrich, that I appreciate the cooperation that you and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission have given us in the Conservation Department in the past three years and I believe that this time, we have a cooperative spirit existing between the Board of Conservation and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. It is certainly a pleasure to work with you and your personnel.

Bob has already in the introduction appraised you of the make-up of the Board of Conservation, and I will take a few minutes of your time to explain some of the responsibilities and some of the aims of these various divisions of the Board.

The Board of Conservation is made up of the Governor and the members of the Cabinet which is six elected officials. I, of course, serve as the Director of the Board. In the Division of Salt Water Fisheries, we have the responsibility for regulating the sports and commercial fishing. We have the responsibility to administer the motor boat registration program and also carry on an educational program in cooperation with the sheriffs of the state and with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission for motor boat safety. This is carried out through the Florida Boating Council of which the Director of the Board of Conservation serves as Chairman. In order to be effective, we do not take any part in any tax legislation or make any recommendations tax wise in regard to motor boating. We stay strictly with the motor boat safety education program as required in that field. Also, the Director serves as Chairman of the Interagency Committee on Pollution Control. This is a very important function to bring about more coordination with various agencies dealing with public health to set up the agency on pollution control.

The Director of Conservation also serves as a member of the Recreational Planning Committee which makes recommendations in the recreational field.

In the Water Resources Division which I think is one of the most important responsibilities of the Board, through the Central and South Florida Flood Control District the Southwest Water Management District and the State Soil Conservation Board, we have three highly important water management projects in the state. The State Soil Conservation Board administers the Small Watershed Act under Public Law 566. We work very closely with this Board and what we think is a very important part of our total water management work is tying into the larger drainage projects which would be built by the other two, Southwest Water Management District and Central and South Florida Flood Control. The Central and South Florida Flood Control District contains eighteen counties and the Southwest Water Management District sixteen counties. We are concerned with the acquisition with some 350,000 acres of land to be used for water reservoir land in these two projects and certainly all of us can see what that would mean to recreation, to Game and Fresh Water Fish activities and hunting and fishing. That within itself is a tremendous undertaking for any

agency. This very easily can be developed into multiple use project, or it can be undertaken separately by the Board of Conservation. At any rate, we hope this land will be available for recreation.

In our water development division, we are sponsoring sections of the Cross Florida barge canal and with the able assistance of Congressman Sikes and our representatives in Congress, we have begun active construction of the Cross Florida Barge Canal which will be across the state. We have many other waterway projects in which we are interested. The West Coast Inland Waterway and other waterways which we are attempting to construct. The 1961 Legislature in reorganizing the Conservation Department provided for a unified approach to our public waterway projects at the Washington level.

The only way that we can judge the future is by the past. I want to take the few remaining minutes left to me to remind you that history tells us that the downfall of any civilization has been preceded by a breakdown in the conservation of that civilization's natural resources. That is the reason that you and I here this morning as administrators and staff members charged with the responsibility of conserving these natural resources have such a great responsibility. When we think back into the past we realize that the history of every civilization the world has ever known can be written in ten words and I would like to leave this thought with you this morning.

These ten words are bondage, spiritual faith, courage, liberty, age. Now all of us realize that we have reached the position in these United States where we have great abundance. All of us here can trace the history of our ancestors, most of whom came from Europe, who were in bondage but through their spiritual faith gained the courage to come to America. They created this wonderful abundance which we enjoy today. Now, I ask you will we follow the line of every other civilization and go from selfishness to complacency to apathy to dependency and back to bondage. I have pondered this situation often, and I want to remind you that this could happen to us in the United States when we least expect it.

Thank you.

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## **CONGRESSMAN BOB SIKES, SOUTHEASTERN CONSERVATION CONFERENCE**

**Clearwater, Florida, October 19, 1964**

I am very pleased to join in a warm and hearty welcome to each of you who is a guest in our state. I have an interest in your work which is lifelong. The outdoors has been my recreation. Florida is a wonderful spot to enjoy the outdoors. Your visit here will give you a better picture of our state and of our work in conservation. We have made very considerable strides in that work. You will be told about it by other speakers who actually are charged with responsibility for Florida's many faceted recreational activities. We think it is one of the best programs in the nation.

We are proud of our recreational assets and proud of our state. We in Florida share a beautiful area which has known dynamic progress. It is an area which has known a colorful history and which is now engaged in writing a future as progressive, as varied, and as exciting as any in the land. Florida is an area of clean, green woodlands, sparkling beaches and refreshing waters. We have not submerged our natural beauty in quest for material things. Florida is the end of the rainbow for those who are recreational minded.

We are here to talk about recreation and its place in today's world. Undoubtedly, recreation is gaining more attention from more people than ever before in our history. More people have time to enjoy recreation than