

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-

ing, may I say simply "Welcome to Florida." I appreciate the opportunity to come here today to talk about outdoor recreation and I am particularly pleased that Commissioner Conner saw fit to devote a considerable part of his remarks to this subject. It certainly is one that cannot be over-emphasized in this modern day of ours.

Outdoor recreation, in a sense, involves a new emerging concept, one of natural resource based outdoor recreation activities—a new term. We come to think of it more and more in terms of resource based outdoor recreation. These are the types that depend, for instance, on certain specific elements of the natural environment to support them such as hunting and fishing, and boating, camping, hiking—a whole long list—all depending on certain elements of our natural resources to support these activities. This means that our problem is not one of merely providing more golf courses or tennis courts, swimming pools—things of this nature, but one of allocating a particular part of resource space to this new use. These resources, as I said, are varied and they must be properly managed and preserved if we are going to support these new types of outdoor recreation.

Now, in Florida, we do have an outdoor recreation problem. We have plenty of these resources. Commissioner Conner described some of them earlier today. A very wide range of resources, and we are very proud of them. But we also have a very rapidly growing demand for outdoor recreation in this state. During a ten year period, for instance, the number of hunting and fishing licenses sold doubled. Attendance at our national parks in this state increased by half. Attendance at our state parks system increased by nine times during one ten year period. Now, we may attribute a great deal of this to population growth as Florida has been one of the most rapidly growing states in the country, but a large part of it too is due to the fact that people are participating more and more and we find in this state that the demand for outdoor recreation is actually increasing sixty-five percent faster than the rate of population growth itself.

Now, in the face of this kind of demand, all of our programs we have had heretofore to provide outdoor recreation are inadequate. Our state park systems no longer meet the demand. Our game and fish program is straining under this increased burden. All of our individual state programs. Our situation, then, became one sort of like that of the two colored gentlemen who were walking down the streets of Rome recently. They came by St. Peters Basilica and saw a crowd out there and noticed a gentleman sitting up in a balcony in very distinguished attire and one of them says to the other one "Who dat up dere?" and the other one says "Why, he's the Pope." First one said "Who'd the Pope?" Said, "Man, he's head of the Catholic church all over the world." The other one says "Man, ain't dat sompin. How'd he get dat?" Other one said "The Cardinals elected him" First one says "Man ain't dat sompin?" Wonder if Giants can do sompin bout Willie Mays?" Well, our problem in this state became whether Florida can do something about its outdoor recreation. Well, I am happy to be able to report to you that we are doing something about our outdoor recreation problem. A large part of the thanks for this is due to our present Governor, Farris Bryant, who came into office in 1961 determined to make an outdoor recreation program an important part of his administration. There are many others who contributed to this effort—Commissioner Conner, who we heard from earlier, Senator Hodges, from whom you will hear in a little while, and many, many others. Farris Bryant, as Governor, provided the catalyst that this state needed in order to bring all of these programs and efforts together to develop what we have today. As one of his first official acts, Governor Bryant created the "Governor's Committee on Recreational Development," and he charged this special committee with the responsibility of looking into the problem and determine what had to be done. The Committee over a two year period did a very comprehensive job of evaluating the situation and came back in 1963 with specific recommendations to the Governor and to the 1963 Florida

Legislature. As a result, we have what we feel is a milestone piece of legislation in our 1963 Outdoor Recreational Conservation Act. Briefly, this Act attempted to do two things: first of all, to provide a new streamlined administrative machinery with which to carry out the program, and secondly, to provide a source of money, as inevitably a program of this type involves heavy financial requirements. First, the administrative machinery—the Act named the Governor and the State Cabinet, and for those of you who are not familiar with Florida's government, we have seven independently elected cabinet officials in this state. These seven together were named as the Outdoor Recreational Development Council for the State of Florida and given the responsibility of providing the highest level impetus for this outdoor recreation program. The Act also created an outdoor recreational planning Committee—a body to do the actual planning and coordination work. This committee is made up of the highest level representatives of all of Florida's state agencies actually involved in outdoor recreation either through the use of the programs or the management of the resources themselves.

The Act also created a land management division to provide certain services in the way of title examination, land acquisition, etc. For the money end of it, the 1963 Outdoor Conservation Act created a land acquisition trust fund, and named several sources of revenue to be deposited into the fund. The most important of these were a five percent tax levied at the wholesale level on certain forms of outdoor recreational equipment and also the state's share over and above the actual administrative cost of the motorboat registration fees. All of these sources of revenue were to be placed into the land acquisition trust fund. Now, these were our tools. New administrative machinery and new source of finance. Now, what have we done with them? The first major policy decision by the Outdoor Recreational Development Council was (1) to place primary initial emphasis on land acquisition. The Governor's Committee recognized that while we had wide base of resources in this state, too few of them are actually in public ownership available to the public for outdoor recreational purposes. The problem became one of augmenting these publicly available resources. This is the direction the program has taken initially. In order to accomplish this objective, acquiring new lands, two things are needed. First of all, we need a comprehensive long range state wide outdoor recreational development plan. This is the job of the Outdoor recreational planning committee—one which is well underway. In its final form this document will identify the outdoor recreation land need in the state by type, by size, by location within the state, by the time schedule on which they are to be acquired, and then the final form—it will have to identify the priorities by which these lands will be acquired, recognizing that we are not going to have enough money to go out and buy every one we think we need. The plan, therefore, will have to identify priorities.

In addition to the plan, of course, we need the money. It was originally anticipated that the sources of revenue provided for the program would make available about 2½ to 3 million dollars a year. Not very much in view of the size of this program, but still a start, and it was hoped that this money could be used to service revenue bond issue so that most of the financial assets available to this program could be made available at a very early date. This required a special constitutional election for an amendment to the state Constitution which passed last November by a substantial majority. So, the program does have the authority to issue revenue certificates.

Our schedule now, we hope, is for the completion of the plan by late 1965 or very early 1966 and also to have our first substantial bond issue completed by that time. So that when we have the plan for guidance in our land acquisition effort we will also have the money to be ready to go ahead full speed. In the meantime, however, there are many other functions which this program serves other than merely planning. We have, through the medium of this Outdoor Recreational Planning Committee, managed to effect a higher degree of cooperation and coordination among

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.

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