

than 20 percent of those covered by a recent federal survey said that while they do not now go fishing they would like to, or would like to fish more often.

Other outdoor activities for which the survey found large unsatisfied demands include swimming, "going to the beach," camping, horse-back riding and boating.

Here in Florida, where we are developing a huge outdoor recreation program, we are feeling this change in the public attitude.

It is estimated that by 1970 we will have to find several hundred thousand more acres of water habitat for fresh water fishing. In addition, we will have to install approximately 900 more boat access facilities to meet the public needs.

We will also have to place an additional 2,600,000 acres of land under intensive game management, and establish an additional 115,000 acres of nature preserves.

There are, of course, many other acres to be considered. However, the few that I have mentioned will give you some idea of the effect on the state and its agencies such as the Game and Fish Commission.

It is going to require better planning, and bolder and more imaginative efforts on the part of everyone connected with the field of outdoor recreation.

State governments will have to shoulder much of the burden, but they cannot solve the entire problem. Many just do not have that much tax money available.

Therefore, we are going to have to look for suitable resources under private ownership. And what better place is there to look than in the farming areas of our nation.

Farm-based recreation is a new concept in many of our states, but it does have enough advantages to interest the agricultural industry.

First, it can provide extra income for the farmer; second, it can increase the value of the farmers property; third, it helps to remove surplus crops from the market; fourth, it encourages soil and water conservation, and fifth, it tends to halt the flow of farmers to the cities.

Some of the most successful recreational areas now being operated by farmers include golf courses, ponds and lakes for fishing, hunting preserves, and camping and hiking areas. Other opportunities are just around the corner, if the farmer is induced to undertake outdoor recreational projects.

For this reason, I urge your organization and the individual agencies you represent to encourage the participation of farmers in future outdoor recreational programs. It not only benefits the agricultural industry, but the public as well.

Thank you for inviting me here today. I hope you will have a successful and rewarding convention.

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

Mr. W. T. McBroom
Commissioner, Fourth District
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

Mr. McBroom: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you for the opportunity to be on this program. You know, I am in somewhat of a quandry. I have my good friend Doyle Conner here and we saw how amply you folks are going to be welcomed and you get down to me—it leaves me very little to say, so I told my colleagues last night that I was going to make the shortest welcoming speech in history. I'm just going to

say "Welcome, you-all." We are glad to have you in Florida, and on behalf of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, we sincerely hope that you stay here in Florida will be an interesting and instructive one.

In handing me this assignment, #1 as we affectionately refer to your President—sometimes when we are a little mad at him we call him #13—he suggested that now would be probably an opportune time to get in some remarks from a Commissioner's standpoint. First, before going into that, let me briefly relate to you some of the things which we have prepared for your entertainment and for your enjoyment in the state. While you are here we certainly hope that you take advantage of these facilities. We have provided ample transportation of all kinds which can be had by any of you gentlemen at our registration desk out here. WE have autos, we have airplanes, we have helicopters, we have airboats, we have half-tracks, we have vessels, regular boats and motors. If there are any of these vehicles that any of you gentlemen would like to use or would like to see demonstrated to see the practicality of any type of vehicle used in law enforcement and the other aspects of game management and fish management, we will be most happy to furnish you with this transportation, and will appreciate the opportunity of doing so.

Now, this evening about the many places that you may see in and near Clearwater which is rich in history of Florida, among the many places that have been planned—Weeki Wachee Springs, Busch Gardens and those things—there are many other things. I had the privilege of talking with one of the gentlemen last evening who was interested in the wetlands program—I know he isn't with us this morning because we've got him up to his wetlands in wetlands showing them to him. So, if any of you gentlemen are interested in any aspects of Florida's work in the field in conservation of game and fresh water fish, we would appreciate the opportunity of showing it to you first hand, and again, we invite your solitation.

This evening at 6:30 on Clearwater beach, we are having a beach party. Come as you can. Of course, by 6:30 there will be a lot of you that can't, but come as you can anyway. We will be glad to have you and among some of the more exotic things which we plan to regale you with at this beach party are wild hog, taken right out of the wilderness of Florida by our boys—some of the best hog catchers that you ever saw. Not only can catch people, but can catch hogs. If you have not had the previous opportunity of enjoying the delicacy of swamp cabbage, we have had our boys cut 100 cabbages which will be prepared for you in two ways—first, normal way to prepare cabbage—household, domestic, unexotic cabbage and we also have some prepared in the form of a salad which I am sure you will find delightful.

Now, within the last few years we have had an invasion in Florida of an animal which we haven't been able to figure out what to do with but I think maybe we got him cornered now and that's armadillo. We are going to have barbecued armadillo down there for your taste and believe me, you will be completely delighted when you find out what this sorry looking animal turns out to be when he is properly prepared and put on the table. For some of you fellows who have a strong stomach, we have alligator meat down there, and if you don't like rattle-snake meat I think we have a little moccasin thrown in with it. So, we invite you there tonight to let your hair down and enjoy the full facilities of our beach party which I can assure you will be most interesting in more aspects than one. If you don't wish to participate, you will have a ball sitting on the sidelines watching these boys that do.

In addition to what was supposed to be a welcoming address, the Commissioners, or rather the Chairman of our Commission, suggested that while I am standing here I just might present the viewpoint of the Commissioners to you gentlemen who, by and large, are professionals in your field. In examining the program for the business session

of your association, I find that there are numerous topics regarding game management and fish management on into aviation and its use in law enforcement and each of these panels are being handled by what I refer to as the professionals. Now, a professional in my estimation comes under the head of biologists who by inclination and hard work and study is determined to devote his life to the conserving of our natural resources in game and fresh water fish. And believe me, gentlemen, I have been on this Commission for four years and when I first became a Commissioner, the term "biologist" was a dirty name, but the gentlemen with whom I have had the pleasure of working have convinced me they are real professionals and, as such, we are proud to have them in the top echelon of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Without them, we would be lost.

But let's look for just a moment at the Commissioner's place in the field of conservation. Let's paint a picture of what the average Commissioner is and see if we can get some sort of understanding of how a man like me feels when he is suddenly appointed to be a member of the Game Commission—usually a five man Commission—and I understand from our President that the majority of the Commissions in Southeastern are composed of Commissioners similar to that which we have in Florida. First, who is he? Second, why is he? Third, why and how does he fit into the scheme of conservation? To answer who he is let's say that he is an outdoorsman, and ardent hunter and fisherman, a man who probably has belonged to one or more sportsman's clubs and has taken an interest in conservation. In addition to that, he has to be somewhat astute in political matters or he wouldn't have been appointed in the first place, and he has a deep and abiding interest in conservation. Second, what is he? I like to think of myself as being an average Commissioner. He is a moderately successful business man with a hardnosed business oriented background which he intends to apply to the management of the game and fresh water fish commission for which he serves. He is a man who understands the necessity of good public opinion and is expected to have a good public image by the Game Commission. Otherwise, he would not have been moderately successful in his business field. Then, the third question—why and how does he fit into conservation? Because of his business background, he complements the efforts of the professional men who are actually directing and doing the work in the field. I don't know of a single Commissioner of my acquaintance who has a biological background. Speaking of biological backgrounds, I was telling Fred Stanberry who used to work down here in Florida and left before I had the pleasure of working with him that I have been on the Commission four years and still didn't know the definition of ecologist, and asked him if he would kindly enlighten me and he said he would. I hope so. Not having any biological background, a lot of these things are over the average Commissioner's head.

Because of his business training, he brings forward and promotes new ideas new schemes in managing properly and effectively the funds with which we are charged to do the job for the public of our particular state. And while we are on the subject of a new idea I would like to leave this thought with you. An idea expressed is no longer a new idea. You must go searching your mind for something else, because once it's out it is no longer new and believe me, we need new ideas, certainly in the Florida Game Commission, and I believe that would be true of all Commissions. Next is what I would like to refer to as preventing a hardening of the attitudes. Now, don't confuse that with haddening of the arteries which has killed businesses and people. A hardening of the attitudes is acquiring and sticking to from hell or high water a fixed concept and opinion about some subject which is in the mind of the person and cannot be changed. Such is not the case. We, in our Commission, cannot be guilty of a hardening of the attitudes. We must be flexible. Gentlemen, I point out to you that change, change, is the most constant of all things. We change from yesterday to today, we are going to change from today to tomorrow. We have to be sufficiently aware of these things

so that we may be one step ahead and anticipate these changes as they come along.

The Commissioner's duty to the public—his first duty is to see that the public has adequate recreation facilities; to see that there is a reasonable amount of game and fish for him to harvest if he is going to spend his license money, and to provide a place for him to go in search of such game. One of the major problems in America today is the disappearance of lands for conservation purposes. We have reached the age of . We see in the newspapers each day that this union and that union are striving for a thirty hour work week. Five years from now, it will be a twenty-four hour work week. These people must have something to do with their time, and it's my job and it's your job as professionals to see and outthink the situation and provide places for these people to continue to enjoy themselves and to see that they have an abundance of game and fish to harvest. So, I won't belabor the point. My time is running short and number 1 says he is a stickler for schedules. Would like to leave this thought with you. It is the Commission's job to help to pry the hinges off your mind and to provoke therein new ideas. Once we receive those new ideas it is our job then to exploit them for the betterment of the general public and the overall betterment of hunting and fishing. There are many items on today's program and others which I would like to attend but time does not permit me to attend each of them. At each of these meetings I learn something and I have much to learn. But I wish you well in your deliberations and I hope that in your deliberations that you will successfully pry the hinges off your mind and come up with new ideas which all conservation and all Commission need so very badly. Thank you very much.
