

ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO KENTUCKY

By BURT L. MONROE

President, League of Kentucky Sportsmen

When I agreed to give the welcoming address to this convention, I had no idea that it was to be one of a series of such addresses. It would seem that there were persons who were afraid it would take a great deal of persuasion to have you remain here once you got within our fair borders—at least for the duration of three days of the Convention. I can assure you that it isn't quite that bad.

Once the Mayor's representative got you to Louisville and gave your president that key to the city, I was sure it wouldn't open anything unless we welcomed you to the State of Kentucky. The fact is that you are here and we're all very glad.

Now since you are all here in Kentucky, and we as individuals and the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Game and Fish Commission and the League of Kentucky Sportsmen as host organizations are mighty happy and pleased that you are, let me give you some brief observations on our concept of this matter of managing our game and fish resources.

For many years, the League of Kentucky Sportsmen has worked for and with the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Splendid progress has been made despite the many obstacles which had to be overcome.

The League and the Department did not always see eye to eye but from whatever controversies which arose there came a solution for the good of all—for all were striving to attain the same goal.

Through the untiring efforts of the League, the Civil Service Law which gave our Department a free hand for the first time in its history became a reality and the State's conservation program soared upward with tremendous impetus. And the sportsmen of the State of Kentucky tasted success for the first time. Now we have a formidable partnership.

The doctrine that we try to pass on is that we do not feel that the development of a conservation team means that the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is surrendering responsibilities. Neither do we interpret willingness to cooperate as an invasion of someone else's so-called rights. And we are absolutely certain that any claims the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is placing itself in the position of being told what to do by the sportsmen when it cooperates with them is utterly ridiculous. The sportsmen have the same objectives as the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. It can't be otherwise. There are no double standards in conservation.

Our philosophy is one which should hold true in every single state represented here today. Without it, many conservation departments like the Arabs of Abou Ben Adhem have folded their tents and have silently stolen away. Here it is.

We believe a commissioner should be appointed for his ability as an administrator and organizer as well as for his knowledge of wildlife management problems. He must be able to build on a sound financial basis not to hoard funds but competent enough to build a revolving fund for any contingency which may arise due to fluctuations in normal income. He must have a free hand to administer without interference from any source.

If perchance he is a member of a Governor's cabinet as head of a State department, he should see to it that he nor his department never does anything to embarrass the incumbent administration. Neither should he adhere to any pretense of using any phase of wildlife management work as a "reward" for political prowess or political service on the part of any employee. This is what the sportsmen can and should expect.

Members of the Game and Fish Commission are appointed from districts but in reality, they are not placed on the Commission to represent a district to the extent that a small hierarchy is built up and the commission member participates in the employing of employees. There should be no protection afforded to employees by the Commission members as this is a quick way to destroy discipline and the channels of authority. And the Commission member should leave administrative matters up to the Commissioner.

The sportsmen should not be a pressure group nor should they likewise attempt to participate in the administrative affairs of the conservation department. The sole reason for their existence as organizations should be to insist on creation of adequate sets of laws under which the state's natural resources shall be administered to the end that the interests of all the people are served. They should require retention of qualified personnel to administer the laws and they should serve as a buffer between those laws and that personnel on the one hand and the exploitation-minded interests on the other hand.

Finally, we here in Kentucky believe that none of the proper programs can come to fruition without the administration, research and guidance of trained biologists such as are gathered here today. Here we are trying to teach the sportsmen not to attempt to tell the technicians how to do their jobs. Such a thought reminds me that if we get our professional foot in a jet plane and our amateur foot in an ox-cart, we are going to have something of a splitting ride. And that we should all be paying a little more attention to the problem of keeping our poor feet together.

If I personally had one wish in life, I would wish that the time would come when everyone, everywhere realized that the career of a trained biologist, technician or wildlife manager is comparable to that of a surgeon, physician or lawyer and that those of us who are able to hunt or fish hardly more than a few weeks each year would realize unanimously that although we observe species of wildlife perhaps the whole year round, we still are unskilled in knowing what to seek and woefully untrained in being able to interpret what we find. I am perfectly willing to entrust the future of hunting and fishing to those of you who are assembled here.

All of us have a little of the scientist in ourselves. That is forgivable as illustrated by the small Memphis boy's description of wild geese:

"Geese is a low, heavy set bird which is mostly feet and feathers. His head sits on one side and he sits on the other. Geese can't sing much on account of dampness of the moisture; he ain't got no 'between-his-toes' and he's got a little balloon in his stumic to keep from sinking.

"Some geese when they gets big has curls in their tails and is called 'ganders.' Ganders don't have to sit and hatch but just loaf and go swimming. If I was a goose, I'd rather be a gander."

That, gentlemen, is biologically sound and scientifically correct to say the least. It is better perhaps than what some of the uninitiated sportsmen can concoct.

We trust that many of you, when the sessions close, will tarry here, and visit some of our historic sites and our lakes. We suggest that you go out and look at a couple of our T. V. A. dams. You might as well—you paid for them.

We invite you to rest by the waters of Dale Hollow, the home of the world's record smallmouth bass; Lake Cumberland and Kentucky Lake; to stroll along the banks of the Mississippi River, that great Father of Waters; to catch a glimpse of the beautiful Ohio and its famous Falls; and to have the joy of a long, invigorating ride through our famed Bluegrass and its race-horse country. Then when you return to your respective states, you will be refreshed and ready to translate the lessons and ideas learned from the convention into actual working programs for your own communities. And to take back with you this thought:

"Coming together is the beginning;
Keeping together is progress;
Working together is success!"

So on behalf of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Game and Fish Commission and the League of Kentucky Sportsmen, I extend our hospitality to you and welcome you most cordially.

INTRODUCTION OF SENATOR JOHN SHERMAN COOPER

Mr. President, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen :

Our speaker this evening—by his very presence here—reflects the value, nationwide, of this convention. To take time out from the great problems of national defense, nuclear weapons, integration, the United Nations, Quemoy, Matsu and taxes in order to participate in a program devoted entirely to the management of game and fish surely indicates a keen and sincere insight into the importance of the proper utilization and management of our natural resources, particularly wildlife.

We all feel honored that he is here to bring to us the views of a non-professional in this field; yet fresh views and invaluable opinions from one in a high level of government and administration—one who seeks to understand our problems and programs and who helps to formulate the broad policies and legislation which are so vital to our way of life in general and to the careers and future of most of the delegates here assembled in particular.

Mr. Cooper has dedicated many years of his life to service to his community, State and country—not to mention his contributions to other nations of the world.

A native of Pulaski County, Kentucky, he first served as county judge. And to him goes the credit for promoting the first rural county agent program for the State started by his father. He has been a circuit court judge, an office to which he was elected while he was in military service.

He has been a delegate to the United Nations and was named Ambassador to India. And he is now serving in the United States Senate for the third time.

It is a real privilege to present to you the Honorable John Sherman Cooper, U. S. Senator from Kentucky. Mr. Cooper.

ADDRESS

By SENATOR JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
Kentucky

Southeastern Conference of Fish and Game Commissioners:

I want to thank you for inviting me to address the Southeastern Conference of Fish and Game Commissioners.

It is a pleasure for me to speak to this group, representing 12 States—men and women interested in and charged with the responsibility in your states of wildlife conservation—for yours is a vital part of the total conservation movement. Recently, I have had the pleasure of speaking to other conservation organizations—our State convention of Soil Conservation Districts, to groups interested in the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank, Small Watershed development, and better forest management. And of course, in Kentucky there is a constantly increasing interest in the development of water resources through the Corps of Engineers. And so, I welcome the opportunity of meeting with officials and leaders in wildlife conservation work.

1958 is the 59th anniversary of the first Governors' Conference on Conservation, which met at the White House in May, 1908. It was a conference called by Theodore Roosevelt, which Gifford Pinchot called "the first of its kind—not only in America, but in the world." Forty years later, Pinchot said of this first conference, "It may well be regarded as a turning point in human history, because it introduced to mankind the newly formulated policy of the conservation of natural resources. It spread far and wide the proposition that the purpose of conservation is the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time."

In his second Annual Message to the Congress, Theodore Roosevelt said: "Legislation should be provided for the protection of the game and wild creatures generally, on the forest reserves. The senseless slaughter of game, which can by judicious protection be permanently preserved on our national reserves for the people as a whole, should be stopped at once."