

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.

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

ever before, and the demands being made upon recreational assets are greater than ever before. Not long ago, a prominent official of the Audubon Society said, "We can't increase the population of New England by several million persons without affecting wildlife." Well, he did not have to confine that truism to New England. We are increasing the population of nearly every area of this Nation by leaps and bounds. We can't do this without affecting wildlife and the future of recreation. Recreation comprises much more than wildlife, of course. But wildlife is a very important part of any recreation activity, whether for hunting, fishing, for photography, or just the pleasant thrill of enjoying the out of doors in proximity with the creatures of nature.

It takes an extraordinary effort to keep pace with the varied and complicated activities which are taking place around us. Ours is a most complex world. New souls are being added to the earth's population ten times as fast as they were 100 years ago. There is supersonic flights, instant communication of images and speech. Modern scientific devices flood the world; educational opportunities are so fantastic we import people to help take advantage of them, and there is a surplus of nearly everything. Scientific and industrial progress are the phenomena of the age.

Then, there is another side.

There also is ignorance, poverty, hunger, violence in the streets, and undeclared war. This by contrast is human progress, and human progress seldom is self-regulating. It requires adjustment and understanding and patience. Sometimes, it is years—even centuries—in the making. Nevertheless, human progress, like scientific enlightenment, is certain.

While human progress is in the making, no less than when scientific progress already has been accomplished, there is need for recreation. Need for people to feel the quiet and pleasant freshness of woodlands. Need for people to walk on lonely beaches. Need for people to feel untainted breezes on their brow. Every passing year makes conservation of natural resources, and conservation of game and fish more essential. That is why your work will become more important with each passing year.

I have not said a thing about the economics of recreation. With us in Florida, it is big business. It is one of our principal money makers. Yet, we know that we have not begun to realize its potential. In Northwest Florida there are three great river basins—the Apalachicola, the Choctawhatchee, and the Escambia. Now all of you have heard about the Eglin Air Force Reservation with its half million acres of prime woodlands, good hunting and good fishing. But very few of you have heard about the three great river basins that I have named. Each of the three could equal or surpass the Eglin Reservation in its recreation potential because the natural game and fish cover and food is better. They were for years overfished and over hunted. Now with protection and restocking we are bringing them back. Give us a few more years, and I believe we can match any game and fish resources in the country. Mine is not the only area so endowed with natural blessings awaiting the efforts of the conservationists, but in my District and elsewhere without the work of the conservationists these areas would remain largely game deserts.

Eglin was not always the fine game area that it now is. It, too, was largely hunted out and largely fished out. That is why I am proud of legislation which I sponsored setting up a game management program which later has become a pilot model for game management programs on military reservations throughout the Nation. By the same token, I am proud of my legislation which has made it possible to plow back into military reservations the returns from assets such as timber sold from the reservation. It takes money to develop conservation programs, but people don't mind paying when they see results.

Yes, we can be proud of the progress which has been made, but we should realize the job is far from finished. So, I would like to con-

sider this meeting not one for the celebration of accomplishment but one to plan a course of action. A meeting at which new progress will be made toward the utilization of the resources which are ours. Each of us has an opportunity to work toward a better utilization of the natural recreational and conservation resources in his own area. This meeting provides an opportunity to pool the knowledge that comes from the experience and the contributions of all who are here.

So, this is not a time for wishful thinking. This is a time for action. The resources which are ours can cope with the problems which confront us. Each of us has an opportunity to work in his or her way toward the solution of some of those problems which deny to the people around us the opportunities and the happiness we have known.

A few weeks ago, President Johnson signed two historic conservation measures—The Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill and the Wilderness Bill.

In signing these bills, the President stated:

“Anyone that objectively studies the record of the 88th Congress, I think, would have to conclude that another historic era has begun this year. If the 88th had not earned already so many honorable titles, such as the Education Congress, the Health Congress, the Full Prosperity Congress, it would be remembered as the Conservation Congress.”

The President pointed out further that the 88th Congress has taken steps to keep our air pure, our water safe, our food free from pesticides, protect our wildlife, and conserve our water resources.

“No single Congress in my memory has done so much to keep America as a good and wholesome and beautiful place to live,” the President added.

In signing the Land and Water Conservation Fund measure, President Johnson said the bill “assures our growing population that we will begin, as of this day, to acquire on a pay-as-you-go basis, the outdoor recreation lands that tomorrow’s Americans will require.” This measure will be explained to you in detail. However, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act is designed to primarily assist the States in acquiring and developing outdoor recreation areas. Normally 60 per cent of the allocations from the Fund will go to the States. The remaining portion of the Fund will go to the National Park Service and the Forest Service for acquisition of needed recreation areas; for payment to help offset capital costs of Federal water development projects which are allocated to public recreation; and for fish and wildlife enhancement.

Let’s sum it up by saying that recreation areas nation-wide still are scarce. The tremendous growth of urban areas as a result of industrial expansion is placing an ever greater premium on the availability of outdoor recreational areas. We have had tremendous recreation resources. Much of this has been squandered through carelessness and a lack of realization of the importance of assets which seemed inexhaustible. We need to know what we have in the way of conservation resources; we need a very careful computation of the needs for future years; and we need to move to meet these needs. That is why this conference can be such a valuable one. The stage has been set; rehearsals have been completed; it is time for the play to begin.

I want to broaden the scope of my discussion.

It has been but a short time since we completed one of the most active sessions of Congress in history. There was good legislation and bad. The good will benefit all of us; the bad we shall have to live with until it can be corrected by subsequent sessions of the Congress or through decisions of the courts. The courts have given little indication of any interest in correcting bad legislation. On the contrary, the Federal Courts have been very active in passing legislation of their own through judicial decrees.

There was a tax cut; a Civil Rights Act; a Poverty Bill; Pay Raises; Mass Transit; Veterans benefits; Food Stamp Program; Liber-

alization of School Aid; and a Wilderness Preservation and Conservation Improvement Program.

Congress didn't pass Medicare, Appalachia; liberalized Social Security; wider coverage of Minimum Wage; liberalized Immigration laws; an amendment to the Constitution to permit prayer in schools; or restrictions on re-apportionment.

The image of Congress in general was the reflection of a strong President and endorsement of his programs. Much of the work of the Second Session of the 88th Congress had been bottled up and deadlocked under President Kennedy who never was able to show the adroitness in legislative maneuvers which President Johnson now shows and which he showed as Majority Leader in the Senate. In all of this, spending went forward with little limitation. Apparently, it is now an accepted way of life in government operations to spend beyond our means and to pay little heed to a mounting national debt. I continue to be disturbed by such a policy. Possibly, I am old-fashioned.

Whether legislative records are good or bad for the future of America, the Nation is making amazingly good progress. We are strong economically; we are unbeatable militarily. And with one exception we are getting along very well world-wide. That exception, of course, is Viet Nam. The reports from Viet Nam are generally bad. At best, we are barely holding our own. Whether we can win is said by some to be questionable. Yet, win we must. If we fail to win, we lose whatever prestige we possess among Asiatic peoples. If we were to fail in Viet Nam, we would within a matter of months or at best a matter years see Communists control over all Southeast Asia. It is too big a piece of the world to lose to communism. And in that area, communism is Chinese dominated. That's the worst kind.

Elsewhere, the Russians have accepted the fact that the West is too strong militarily and economically to push aside. They are edging towards a better understanding with the West; even towards a measure of Capitalism for their own people. This does not mean communists are to be trusted or that they will go forward arm-in-arm with us towards a better world for the future. They still are communists dedicated to bring about a communist world by whatever methods best suit the times.

We are approaching a national election. It is time to weigh the things that have been happening in light of their effect on the future.

A lot of things are happening that I don't like and that you don't like. How do we solve them? Do we become bitter? Do we vote against a person or a party because we are angry? Doing that may produce something worse than we have. It is cutting off your nose to spite your face.

There is a better way. It is for more people to stress the rights of citizenship. This they simply have not been doing. Most people have been amazingly indifferent about the rights of citizenship. Minority groups have learned to demand what they want. Most of us are sick and tired of hearing people demand "their rights" when they seem to have no conception of the responsibilities which go with the rights they are demanding. Regrettably, politicians have been listening to their demands.

We would have the best government in the world, and Congress would pass the soundest laws in its history if only a number of people equal to the present vociferous minorities were to demand good government and sound legislation. If the majority of American citizens were to go on record as wanting that kind of government, the results would simply be beyond comprehension.

The founding and growth of our Nation have truly been one of the marvels of human history. It came from vision and dedication with strong purpose in the hearts and minds of people. There was a broad concept, and they transcribed that concept in two basic documents, the

Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. These have served our Nation well. They have stood the test of war, undreamed of progress, and exploding population. In view of the great progress we have known, our national history is amazingly short. We have been tested by great responsibilities and gifted with great opportunities. Approaching maturity has brought new problems and new panaceas. Now is the time to assess our status and to study well our future. Self-sacrifice, industry, moral courage, which we attribute to the pioneers, do not automatically flourish in their descendants. The necessity for self-dependence and the courage generated by the times are no longer the stimulus which they were in the early days of our land.

Threats have come and threats have gone; most of them external in nature. They still exist, but I question that any external threat is as serious as these new internal threats to the very principles of our Democracy. When Prometheus was bound by Jupiter to the rock, it was not an eagle but a vulture that tore at his vitals. Like Prometheus, we in the United States are subject to attacks which tear at the very vitals of our being. Heretofore, we have not been bound like Prometheus but free to resist internal threat. Now, there is a change. We are bound by our own lack of initiative. Too many of our people seem paralyzed, afraid, bereft of alertness, readiness, willingness to respond to internal danger, or just plain indifferent.

This is a time for doing. A time to recognize how much we as a people have received from the heritage of our fathers. A time to measure the present course of events in the light of where those events are taking us for the future. Will we have on tomorrow the same kind of Nation which we have known and which the world has respected? Or have our forefathers builded not on rock but on sand? Are we concerned enough about America to fight on for the things that are right even when we seem to fight alone? This is not a question which can be decided amidst the excitement of marching bands, waving flags and proud uniforms. We can always win that kind of conflict. But can we win a quiet and deadly conflict which must be resolved in the souls of men with quiet determination that the land we know is worth whatever price in toil and sweat and tears is needed for its preservation. The answer will be found on tomorrow as it was on yesterday in love of God, faith in our fellowmen, belief in our country, action and not complaint, and dedication to the principles which made America great.
