

going for it as we begin the next 25 years. We have a sturdy foundation built by our early leaders, great experience and expertise in managing fish and wildlife, more public interest and support than ever before and a fine group of dedicated young workers coming on. I firmly believe that our children and theirs will continue to enjoy the healthy pursuits of hunting and fishing. I believe also that the United States will in time solve its environmental problems, with the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners leading the way.

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JOHN WEST

Southeastern Conference of Game and Fish Commissioners

President Gale, Chairman Eltzroth, distinguished program members, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome each of you to South Carolina. I am also pleased that the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners chose the City of Charleston for its 1971 Conference. My only hope is that you will not hurry home immediately following the close of your meetings, but will stay with us for the remainder of the week and enjoy the many recreational opportunities that South Carolina has to offer.

The decade of the 1970's has been referred to by many as being the period in our country's history that will see the greatest amount of change in the utilization of our resources. This change is coming about because we are beginning to realize that resources no longer are restricted to what we extract from the ground, grow in the soil, or cut from our forests, but these resources in reality make up the very environment in which we live. During this period of the 1970's we are also more aware of the fact that the residents of this State, of the Southeastern States represented here, and of the country as a whole are also a part of our resources that must be considered. No longer can we consider natural resources without also considering our human resources.

As we move ahead in our efforts to provide for an ever-increasing human population, we are constantly reminded that we must be responsive to the needs of this user. It is for this reason that planning, in-depth planning, is a prerequisite to whatever we do. Planning provides for the orderly programming of development, of funding and for determining before a critical need arises where and when we must place our efforts.

The Southeastern region, which is so well represented here today, is the sleeping giant which is beginning to stir. Improved transportation facilities place us now within easy driving distance of the population centers of the mid-Atlantic States and the Midwest. As we look at the utilization of our developing parks, our welcome centers and the general activities of tourist organizations, we clearly see that the Southeast is attracting more and more people throughout each of the twelve calendar months. This means as more people are attracted to our region, the demand for space increases, thus placing an increasing premium on our finite resources.

The Southeast has also demonstrated its desirability as a site for the production of the goods required by this expanding population. This has provided for economic growth, employment opportunities, changes in land use and population shifts from the farm to the city environments.

To Game Managers, these changes mean the constant loss of edge and interspersion of type so desirable for game production. It has also meant the conversion of old growth timber to short rotation pine which demands new game management techniques if the same acres are to continue to produce a wildlife crop. It also has resulted in drainage pattern changes which again, affects production dynamics and in some areas the removal of habitat on which these game populations existed.

To the Fisheries Manager, it has meant a greater use of water for industrial development and a corresponding change in water quality. Concentrations of residences has created problems in sanitary treatment which did not exist when this population inhabited the smaller communities in the farm lands.

To those concerned with Law Enforcement, more people or a greater concentration in the grouping of people, means greater need for guidance, understanding and the many programs which encourage compliance. Here in South Carolina, we designate a portion of our Law Enforcement personnel as Conservation Officers in recognition of the change in duties and responsibilities that these servants of the people now have.

The time is at hand when better planning, improved inventory procedures and the realization that basic facts—and I mean facts—are essential. Without this input into the administrative decision-making process, we cannot hope to meet the demands that face us and at the same time effectively manage the resources that are available to us.

Successful management of these resources demands that a multiple use concept must be utilized. Let me make it clear now that when I refer to multiple use I do not mean that every acre should be available for every use. Instead, I believe, that we must look at our resources and decide the best use for each. Management and utilization then follows this directive and through it all the uses can be accommodated and at the same time retaining the majority of those values deemed important to each of us. Values are often difficult to obtain, values often affect only a few people and values often are not realized until the opportunity of use no longer exists, but comprehensive planning and more emphasis on the obtaining of basic information will assure that these conditions will receive consideration.

Natural resources and people today are less restricted by rigid political or geographic boundaries than they have been at any time in our country's history. This makes it imperative that we in the Southeast recognize and utilize wherever possible, the regional or cooperative approach in the solving of our many problems. This very approach is successfully being utilized in many areas where the combining of efforts provide greater benefits that could be obtained where each worked as an individual. Examples of this which come immediately to mind are the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Coastal Plains Commission, the Cooperative Dove Studies, the Cooperative Fish Disease Studies and the recently initiated Cooperative Southeastern Economic Survey. I am sure there are many more and I commend each of you for your efforts in working as teams to meet these most critical needs. The outstanding results obtained to date clearly demonstrates the value of this approach.

In South Carolina we are most proud of the natural resources available to us. I am sure that during the course of your discussions at this Conference, personnel of the various agencies representing South Carolina will point these out in more detail than I can at this time. To mention a few, we find that the 450,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs offer many opportunities to the boater, to the fisherman and to the shoreline cottage owner. I am sure that I do not have to mention at this time what a tremendous resource South Carolina has in its unique, natural spawning land-locked striped bass of the Santee-Cooper Lakes. And now, with the hybrids which are being developed utilizing white bass and striped bass, we believe that we have even more to make the fisherman's day a success.

The rapidly expanding restored deer herd in the Piedmont is providing the hunter of this State and our neighboring States an opportunity to obtain greater enjoyment during the Fall Season. These results speak well for Jim Webb and his Department in its continuing to accommodate the sportsman.

The development of a sound marine resources program being built around the developing Marine Research Center here in Charleston is another example of our desire to obtain the best utilization of natural

resources. I will not expand on this facet of South Carolina's program because I am certain that Dr. Timmerman, who follows me this morning on the program, will have much more to say about this.

As I review the program for this Conference, I recognize that many important subjects will be discussed. I am also pleased to see that part of the theme of the Conference concerns itself with the very change I have discussed with you. We must know our product better, know how to utilize it and at the same time educate the user as to its value and recognize the changing needs and attitudes of the user. I am certain that each individual attending this Conference will leave with new ideas, new enthusiasm and now dedication to the important job which lies ahead for all of us.

Thank you.

REMARKS OF NATHANIEL P. REED
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
at the 25th Annual Conference of the
Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners
Charleston, South Carolina, October 18, 1971

I appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Southeastern Association at this conference marking a quarter of a century of effective environmental efforts. Little did that small group who met 25 years ago foresee that this Association would grow into the strong viable organization it is today—respected as the vanguard association of its kind. Congratulations on your silver anniversary!

You fish and game people are the front line troops in the conservation and environmental struggle. I can honestly say that in surveying the entire conservation picture, I don't know of any group that has fought for more causes, taken more abuse, or worked any harder than you have and you can well be proud of your record. The one thing you cannot do, however, is to rest on it. You must continue to carry the burden because, frankly, many of the agencies that should be doing the job are not.

More than any other part of the country, the States of the southeast are known for the high degree of cooperation that the fish and game agencies enjoy and benefit from—while leading the front line charge of the environmental movement.

I can think of no better example than you, the Southeast State Directors, who testified in Washington on stream channelization and who continue your efforts in your home States. I especially want to thank Earl Frye, Charles Kelly, Carl Noren, and others for their tell-it-like-it-is testimony.

While out at the International meeting in Utah, I was asked whether I felt like a Fed. My reply there was, *No*, I am past the stage of States rights or Federal jurisdictions—I am *for* standing tall, proud of our joint accomplishments, and looking forward to the mutual efforts with you, my concerned friends and allies, to developing a sane, rational environmental ethic. I don't come here as a paternalistic bureaucrat—I come as a friend, an adviser, a willing colleague who wants to work with you in grappling with our challenges of the day.

Environmentally, I consider myself an activist. I learned long ago to speak up early, and loud.

Too many times in the past, critical battles that otherwise could have been won have been lost through lack of aggressive and forthright action. This was particularly true in my home State of Florida. For years there were too few of us raising our voices to protest the short-sighted, ill-conceived exploitation of a State blessed with incredibly beautiful natural resources. And now, with most of those resources under relentless pressures of growth and development, there is a real question