

Having said, then, that the northern half, the northern 24 miles, in Langlade County is already in process of acquisition and fully funded and planned by the State of Wisconsin with the full cooperation of the Department of the Interior, I then proceed to the southern 24 miles in Menominee County in the Indian country. There the State of Wisconsin about a year and a half ago decided to undertake what I think is a very wise holding action, recognizing that this committee had to take some time with as basic a piece of legislation as the scenic rivers bill. The State of Wisconsin leased for \$150,000 a year for 3 years starting in 1967 and running to August 31, 1969—that is a year and 4 months from today—they have leased the precise portions of the Wolf River in Menominee County from the Indians which are sought to be included in this bill. The State did so for basically two reasons. One, to preserve that land and keep it from being despoiled until Congress could act, and, two, to give the Menominee Indians some desperately needed revenue so that they could continue to make a go of it as a governmental unit and county.

Now, in talking to Governor Knowles' conservation director, Mr. Voigt, just within the last few days, he urged me to inform this committee that the State of Wisconsin very much hopes that the committee will look favorably upon the inclusion of the Wolf River scenic rivers bill, because Wisconsin has been holding the fort, so to speak, and it very much hopes that the Federal Government will be able to take over. If the Wolf can be included in the bill, which I devoutly hope, then you will have an admirable 48-mile total, all the good sections of the river, all the wild and scenic sections, under such control, public or private, that it cannot be spoiled. Technically, that will mean that the State of Wisconsin will own and control the 24 northern miles in Langlade County and the Department of the Interior, the Federal Government, will have put up the funds, and I believe they are rather modest funds, required to get the scenic easements and the few acres that would be in public ownership in Menominee County.

The bill, however, provides that joint administration or single administration would be proper and the State of Wisconsin is ready, willing, and eager to take over the job of managing the entire 48 miles. While, of course, we would be grateful for any disposition made by this committee, I would say that it makes sense to delegate from the Federal Government to local people as much as you can, and when you have the State of Wisconsin ready to administer the whole thing under the close control and supervision of the Secretary of the Interior, it seems to me a happy way to go about it and the bill H.R. 6166 fully provides for that, if that is the will of the committee, which I hope it would be.

Finally, I would state one more word about the qualification that I am glad Chairman Aspinall raised, which is what about the Menominee Indians? How do they feel about it?

Well, Mr. Chairman, those Menominee Indians are about the best conservationists in the United States because though their livelihood depends on this forest and those deer and those partridge and those native brook trout and the wild river, they have been truly wonderful over the years in trying to preserve it, and I have worked very closely with them, as Congressman Laird has, in working out the details of