

If the Congress does not act to save the Saint Croix-Namekagon above Taylors Falls much of the picturesque wilderness which has been so widely hailed as one of America's natural wonders could well be on the bottom of the Corps of Engineers' 40 mile-long lake.

I ask this Committee to give the earliest possible consideration to legislation which will save the last of the so-called wild and scenic rivers so that future Americans will have at least such examples as the Saint Croix-Namekagon rivers to be reminded of the natural greatness of their land. They will be grateful to you for your foresight.

Mr. TAYLOR. Next witness is Representative Donald M. Fraser. Is Congressman Fraser here?

Mr. FRASER. Yes, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. DONALD M. FRASER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Mr. FRASER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I will be equally brief and submit my mimeographed statement for the record.

Mr. TAYLOR. In the absence of objection, the statement will be made a part of the record at this point.

Mr. FRASER. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I would like to add my support to the position that has been taken by Congressman Karth and the position which is held by my colleague, Congressman Blatnik, and I think other members of the delegation, including the members of the Senate from our State, with respect to the proposal to include the St. Croix River and the Namekagon River in the wild rivers bill.

I should tell you that my district is not contiguous to either one of these rivers, but my district is the city of Minneapolis which is adjacent to Congressman Karth's district, which is contiguous and does embrace a part of the river.

My interest in this centers on the fact that in the city of Minneapolis we have many of the consumers of the benefits of a wild river designation. I can testify to this personally because I happen to have had a summer cabin on the St. Croix River for the past 44 years and during my younger days I had occasion to take a canoe trip down the length of the Namekagon that would be included in this bill and the wild portions of the St. Croix River and the scenic portions of the St. Croix River. I think I took that trip some four or five times and it is one of the best canoe trips that I have ever had occasion to take. I have been interested in canoeing for a long time and canoed up in the border country of Minnesota and Canada, but this river really is outstanding from a recreational and canoeing point of view. Opportunity for canoeing in a wild area is as good here as anywhere I can think of in the United States.

This matter was precipitated, as members of the committee may know, by the fact that several years ago it was proposed that a powerplant be built in the lower stretches of the St. Croix River. There was a lot of controversy about that at the time. It was finally resolved, not necessarily with everyone's support, it was resolved by the action of the Northern States Power Co. building a major coal-consuming powerplant on the lower reaches of the St. Croix River. At this point