

nobody who supports these proposals has any quarrel with the existence of that plant. It is there. They accept it. They know it is going to be there. But what this did occasion was concern about what was going to happen to the rest of the St. Croix River. Was the building of a major coal-consuming powerplant to become the pattern for the rest of the river, the upper reaches, and then the conversion of the wild river into another dam and power producing area?

I think the study by the Army Corps of Engineers perhaps had its origins somewhere in the fact that at one time the Northern States Power Co. was thinking about a dam itself in the upper reaches to generate more electric power. As I understand it, they are now prepared not to pursue that. They are willing, as a public service and because of their own interest in the area, to see the lands that they own along the banks of the upper reaches of the St. Croix devoted to a wild river development. This is one reason we are so anxious that the committee here, if in its wisdom it is willing to do so, we are so anxious that the committee act to include the St. Croix River in the wild rivers section of the bill because we have this opportunity now. We have the cooperation of the major landowner and we feel it would be a tragedy if this convergence of interest and opportunity were not taken advantage of through this Federal legislation.

What we are interested in specifically is to have this committee consider following the action of the other body in including the St. Croix River from Taylors Falls on up including the Namekagon up to Trego in the wild river section of the bill, and the part from Taylors Falls on down to its confluence with the Mississippi in the scenic rivers part of the bill and if that is not possible, at least to put these under the study sections, but I would urge that they actually be included, if possible, in the two sections, the wild rivers section and scenic rivers section.

It is a great opportunity for the people of that area and I think really for the Nation, because this is one of the great canoeing rivers of the Nation and I know of the deep interest that this committee has in preserving these kinds of opportunities for the future.

Mr. TAYLOR. You are in agreement with the statements that Congressman Karth made.

Mr. FRASER. Well, I am in agreement except I guess I would like to see the lower part of the St. Croix actually included as a scenic river which is the action that the Senate took.

Mr. KARTH. I would say, Mr. Chairman, that there is no disagreement between the gentleman and myself.

Mr. TAYLOR. What is your position on the Namekagon? I do not recall your mentioning that.

Mr. KARTH. That you will include the upper reaches of the St. Croix in the wild rivers portion and the lower portion be included in the scenic, and if not that, at least be in the study part.

Mr. FRASER. I think Congressman Karth did refer to the Namekagon. This is this short piece here [indicating].

And then it comes into the St. Croix River and St. Croix goes down to Taylors Falls there as a wild river and then below it it is more developed. It is wider, has powerboats on it and is much more suitable for a recreation area. It is a beautiful valley in the St. Croix River.