

Planners and government officials at all levels tell us that today we do not have enough recreational facilities. Clearly we must make provisions not only to correct the "recreational gap" today, but to plan ahead so as to provide for tomorrow.

But it seems to me that the need for scenic rivers legislation goes beyond merely satisfying our recreational needs. Our rivers are a crucial part of our national character and it seems to be ironic that we should be willing to ruin by our industrial and population growth one of the very significant factors in that growth—our marvelous rivers.

Our few rivers which still remain in their natural state—rivers which are so much a part of our natural resources and history—should be preserved as outdoor natural museum pieces.

Finally, as in all conservation or preservation issues, the problem is truly "now or never." We cannot go back, or at least not without an immeasurably greater effort and expense, to preserve what we have today.

If we want to provide a recreational system more significant than crowded municipal parks, if we want to preserve a very significant factor in our American heritage, if we want to establish a national rivers system in much the same way that we have established our admirable national park system, we must act now, before pollution, industrialization, and dams, have destroyed our last truly pristine river.

II. WHY THE LITTLE MIAMI?

I am happy to have been able to distribute to the members of the subcommittee, in addition to my statement, the very fine brochure entitled: "The Little Miami of Ohio—A Study of a Wild and Scenic River." The Ohio University Development Planning Institute prepared this brochure for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

I feel that the brochure expresses much better than I could ever do, in both words and pictures, the story of our Little Miami and why many of us in Ohio feel it should be a part of a national scenic rivers system. I hope that you will take the time to look through this brochure.

When you do, I feel sure that you, too, will agree that the Little Miami deserves inclusion in a national scenic rivers system.

The Little Miami, from its headwaters in the 7th Ohio District near South Charleston in Clark County, to its mouth at the Ohio River near Cincinnati, winds 105 miles and descends from its source elevation of 1,137 feet to the 448-foot level. With its three primary tributaries, it drains an area of 1,755 square miles on the eastern edge of an intensely industrialized and urbanized stretch of southwestern Ohio from Dayton to Cincinnati.

In the relatively short segment proposed for inclusion in this legislation, the Little Miami traverses a wide variety of topography. Its floodplain varies from a few hundred feet to 1½ miles. From the flat farmlands in Clark County the river plunges into a deep, narrow gorge at Clifton and later through steeply wooded areas and again through gently rolling hills.

Besides the many beautiful scenic areas, the river and the immediately surrounding countryside is rich in historical and recreational