

Present plans call for six access points on the lower St. Croix and eight sites on the upper St. Croix and Namekagon. On the lower St. Croix, these sites would involve approximately 635 acres, not over 20 ownerships and not more than 10 improvements. On the upper river, exclusive of the Northern States holdings, 1,173 acres, 20 ownerships and 9 improvements are involved. Along the whole proposed riverway, about 16,800 acres would be protected by zoning.

It is critical that we move promptly to preserve the entire St. Croix River. Pressures arising from the tremendous urban expansion of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul threaten this last great, clean water river in the upper Midwest. The threats of urban encroachment, tasteless commercial development and pollution coupled with the wide variety of outdoor experiences which are available on the St. Croix make preservation imperative.

Mr. TAYLOR. I have here statements from Members of Congress. In the absence of objection, they will be made a part of the record at this point:

STATEMENT OF HON. ALVIN E. O'KONSKI, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

Mr. Chairman: I appreciate the opportunity to present a short statement in support of legislation to establish the St. Croix National Scenic Waterway in the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Legislation which I introduced in the 90th Congress on January 26, 1967, H.R. 3983, provides for the St. Croix Scenic Waterway.

The original author of the bill, United States Senator Gaylord Nelson, I understand will testify before this Subcommittee. He is the Governor Gifford Pinchot of the State of Wisconsin, whose whole heart is behind conservation and wildlife projects. I am going to make my statement brief because Senator Nelson's background and interest in this project has been one of long standing and his statement will be far more effective than mine. For the promotion of Northern Wisconsin, I hope and pray that this Subcommittee will give approval to the legislation.

I was pleased that the Chairman of the Interior Committee, Congressman Wayne Aspinall, listed the St. Croix as one of the rivers for study in the National Rivers System in his bill, H.R. 8416, and I sincerely hope that it will be put in the category of immediate inclusion in the system, especially since it is so designated in the Senate passed National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 119. The hearings conducted by the Senate Interior Committee in April, 1965, show wide support from interested individuals, sport and wildlife and conservation groups in the local and state area, as well as from all major national conservation organizations.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the St. Croix River and its tributary, the Namekagon, fit very well the declaration of policy in Section 1(b) of H.R. 8416 that "certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstanding remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition; and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

Our precious heritage of natural and unspoiled beauty and unpolluted streams, once exhausted and destroyed, can never be replaced. We are now spending millions of dollars and thousands of man-hours in efforts to restore the Potomac River in our nation's Capital, the Great Lakes, and other important waterways to some degree of their original beauty and purity. We have a golden opportunity to save the few remaining scenic and wild rivers as part of our nation's heritage for this and coming generations.

Some rivers are work rivers, like "Ol Man River," the commercial and industrial Mississippi. Others, like the St. Croix and its scenic tributary, the Namekagon, should be enjoyed for their beauty and recreational aspects alone. Many people have called the St. Croix the last clean river in the United States. With its close proximity to the large metropolitan areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul, as well as to the smaller cities in Northwestern Wisconsin, it provides an easy access to countless hours of boating, fishing, camping and other recreational pursuits for young and old alike.