

ual bills and special measures for their protection and public use. We have in mind such projects as the proposed Potomac National River, proposed Suwanee National River in Georgia and Florida, the proposed Lewis and Clark Wilderness Waterway, or national river, whichever it is called, in Montana, and the proposed Buffalo National River in Arkansas. There are doubtless others. Such rivers, in due course, should become part of a national waterway system.

We endorse sections 12 (a) and (b) of H.R. 8416 which recognizes the need for the establishment of State and local scenic river areas and directs the Secretary of the Interior to encourage their planning and financing under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. We feel that this provision will greatly stimulate sound river basin planning at both the State and local level.

The acquisition of bordering lands or interests in lands, that is for the designated scenic river, averaging 320 acres per mile for protection and public use seems a reasonable standard, with specific boundaries to be designated as soon as possible after more detailed surveys on the ground.

Finally, we question whether the land acquisition ceiling of \$6.5 million contained in H.R. 8416 will be adequate. We suggest that the committee may wish to consider raising that limit, particularly if nine rivers or segments thereof are to be authorized for initial establishment.

We respectfully ask this committee to continue its fine record by reporting favorably legislation which would be set aside, for all time, a select group of our Nation's waterways.

I think that covers the main points.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Thompson, we thank you for your statement.

I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. ASPINALL. Mr. Chairman, all of us realize that Mr. Thompson has one of the better records of service with the great National Park Service.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you.

Mr. ASPINALL. And we appreciate having you here before us. With that, may I chide him just a moment as to part of the recommendations that have been made.

We had some evidence yesterday of the desire of those who represent the areas of the Cacapon and the Eleven Point Rivers and the Shenandoah that they are not quite ready for that. Mr. Thompson, with the knowledge that you have and with the experience that you have had, don't you think that the success of these programs depends to a great extent upon the cooperation of the people in the areas that are affected?

Mr. THOMPSON. Very much so.

Mr. ASPINALL. I can't go any further on that. I want to get back to the proposed Lewis and Clark Wilderness Waterway in Montana and this is the chiding part, because I know how you used to be bound by the upper echelon of authority in the National Park Service. We asked about the Department's position on this particular proposal. And one of the paragraphs we have under date of March 6 1968, reads:

We recommend, therefore, that action on the bill be deferred until this study is completed and the bill can be evaluated in light of the recommendations resulting therefrom.