

(Statements and telegrams referred to above follow:)

STATEMENT OF JULIUS R. NEUNHOFFER, COUNTY JUDGE, KERR COUNTY, TEX.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: Speaking on behalf of the more than 22,000 inhabitants of Kerr County, Texas, and in my official capacity as the Presiding Officer of the governing body of the County, its Commissioners Court, I would respectfully direct the attention of this Honorable Committee to certain facts in support of our contention that the upper reaches of the Guadalupe River of Texas should not be included within the provisions of H.R. 8416 relating to Wild and Scenic Rivers. This measure now under consideration by this committee is unquestionably a meritorious piece of legislation and it is in the public interest that its provisions be brought to bear upon certain undeveloped scenic areas which it proposes to preserve in an unspoiled and natural condition so that the present and future generations shall not be deprived of adequate recreational areas.

Kerr County, Texas, comprises a surface area of 1,101 square miles, of which approximately 75% is drained by the Guadalupe River and its tributaries. Commencing in the year 1842, during the days of the Republic of Texas, the lands fronting the Guadalupe River and its major tributaries were lawfully granted to our pioneer settlers so that by the turn of the century the arteries of communication and commerce were firmly established paralleling the banks of these streams. The valleys of these streams contain virtually all of the 30,000 acres of arable land in Kerr County and by virtue of the rather rugged adjacent terrain features, each and every established community of the county has been located along the Guadalupe River. Over 90 per cent of our population resides within a fraction of a mile of our river and its major tributaries, thus concentrating in these narrow zones a proportionate share of the economic wealth of the area.

Together with the responsibilities of private ownership, the people of Kerr County have also assumed major responsibilities of providing recreational areas for thousands of people each year. In fact, for over half a century, we have already been devoting the Upper Guadalupe River Valley to just such purposes as H.R. 8416 now seeks to establish and extend at public expense and with Federal funds. An estimated 50,000 people enjoyed the use of privately owned camp and recreational facilities in Kerr County during the year 1967. These facilities, church and institutionally owned youth, adult and family camps, together with private residences and tourist accommodations are in themselves evidence of the well developed status of our area. The taxpayers of Kerr County have in addition provided at no Federal expense five separate impoundments of public waters which are open the year round to all types of recreational uses by all citizens. These and other facilities are further augmented by the 500 acre Kerrville State Park abutting the Guadalupe River in an area which has recently been completely renovated and expanded for maximum public use.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I bring to you from the people of Kerr County, Texas, not the usual and customary appeal for the grant or expenditure of Federal funds. On the contrary, I would cite to you and the members of this Honorable Committee the fact that local and private funds have already adapted the reaches of the Upper Guadalupe River Valley into a well developed recreational area, while at the same time retaining our natural scenic environment for all to enjoy. Though "scenic" we be, the 115 years of orderly economic development within the Guadalupe Valley of necessity negate any possible contention that we are a "Wild River" area. To include the Upper Guadalupe River within the provisions of H.R. 8416 even as a study area would serve no useful public purposes, but would on the contrary impose dire economic consequences on an area which has long enjoyed a well balanced and growing economy.

Once again I would reiterate, Mr. Chairman, that we have no quarrel with the purposes or policies set forth in H.R. 8416 and we would not seek to oppose the preservation of as yet undeveloped wild and scenic areas where the public interest requires the development of new and additional recreational facilities.

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL NO. 119, REFERRED TO AS "WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT," AND H.R. 90, REFERRED TO AS THE SCENIC RIVERS ACT

Whereas, there is now pending before the House of Representatives of the United States, Senate Bill 119, referred to as the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act" and H.R. 90 referred to as the "Scenic Rivers Act";