

at this point. You can each take 5 minutes or you can do as the other group did and select a spokesman and give him the larger part or all of the time.

I notice there are four of you, so you have 20 minutes. Go ahead.

**STATEMENT OF HERBERT E. BROWN, CHAIRMAN, SUWANNEE
RIVER AUTHORITY, FLORIDA**

Mr. BROWN. Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee——

Mr. TAYLOR. Are you speaking for yourself?

Mr. BROWN. I am speaking for the Suwannee River Authority.

Mr. TAYLOR. You are not speaking for the other witnesses here?

Mr. BROWN. No, sir.

Mr. TAYLOR. Go ahead.

Mr. BROWN. My name is Herbert Brown. I am chairman of the Suwannee River Authority. With me today is Mr. John C. Camp, a member and former chairman of the authority. He is also chairman of the pollution committee.

Because of the importance to us of proposed legislation before your committee the authority felt impelled to make the following statement and to answer any questions concerning our position which the committee direct to me.

The Suwannee River Authority, being the State agency closest to the people who will be most directly affected, has adopted an official position opposing the inclusion of the Suwannee River or its tributaries in the legislation now being considered by this committee.

The Suwannee River Authority, an official State agency, was created by the Florida State Legislature in 1957 to study, develop, and promote the Suwannee River Basin and the adjacent 12 counties.

The authority is composed of a member from each of the 12 counties of the Suwannee River country appointed by the Governor of the State of Florida and an ex officio member appointed to the authority by each of the boards of county commissioners of the 12 counties. These members serve without compensation or per diem. Funding for the authority is provided by the 12 counties and is matched by the State of Florida.

The Suwannee River Authority is the official body which represents the people of the 12-county area and is the means through which these people can communicate their feelings and thoughts pertaining to the river.

The primary objectives of the Suwannee River Authority are: (1) to promote the development of the 12-county area; (2) to establish the Suwannee River and its tributaries as recreational areas for all people; and (3) to prevent pollution and deterioration of the Suwannee River and its tributaries.

The Suwannee River Authority through the news media has been able to bring international focus on the Suwannee River area. During the year 1967, the authority received 15,132 inquiries about the Suwannee River, coming from all of the 50 States and many foreign countries.

The authority has made continuous progress in the development of recreational areas, and the improvement of navigation of the river. Major public recreational areas have been established with a minimum of one in each county, and in addition, many other picnic and swim-