

I would like to commend the Suwannee River Authority for a job well done in the Suwannee Valley. It has far surpassed our expectations when it was created in 1957 and, believe me, it enjoys the respect and the confidence of everybody who has dealt with it. These dedicated, 12 dedicated, men work close to the local scene, and they serve the best interests of the entire Suwannee Valley.

It would be a waste of the taxpayers' money to superimpose a Federal scenic rivers system upon the outstanding facilities and activities already provided by the States of Florida and Georgia.

The Suwannee River Authority, the local counties affected along the river and the private enterprise, further to take the homes dotted in natural wooded settings, alive with the preserved bird and animal life, would be a negation of one of the most fundamental principles upon which our Nation was founded, the right to own one's home without fear of seizure.

The Suwannee River is some 250 miles long, and there is ample room for diversity of development without damaging the scenic beauty of the river system or limiting its recreational uses. This has been clearly demonstrated on the Suwannee and Ichetucknee and the Santa Fe. Already integrated into a harmonious pattern in the Suwannee Valley are all the fine developments that Mr. Porter will list in his statement, and these bear out, all these fine developments bear out, our feelings that the Suwannee River should be left under State and local management.

Now, there are also preserved wilderness areas along the Suwannee and its tributaries for bird and animal life where they are protected. And all these facilities are continuously being improved and expanded.

Some 40 subdivisions and hundreds of individual homes along the Suwannee and its tributaries pour into the economy of the area and the entire north Florida crown substantial sums of money for all the necessities of life, and we all know what the necessities of life are.

Now, we do not believe that a Federal scenic river system could compensate for this type of economy.

Gentlemen, am I limited now—I have some exhibits here which show clearly the diversified development on the Suwannee River, and since the time is so limited, I wonder if I might leave these with you and—you see they are photographic exhibits of this nature, and would you like for me to leave these with you and Congressmen, if Congressman Fuqua can get them back to me, but I have to have them because we are planning these as a part of a permanent exhibit of the Bell Chamber of Commerce in our new community building at Bell, so I would like to get them back.

Mr. TAYLOR. You had better just keep them then if you have to have them back.

Mrs. SHIFFLETTE. These are so important.

Mr. TAYLOR. Pass them around so that the members of the committee can see them.

Mrs. SHIFFLETTE. All right.

Put them up there so the committee can look at them.

We request—there are several other things I wanted to bring out—we request that the Suwannee and its tributaries be deleted entirely from these scenic rivers bills so that the States of Georgia and Florida