

through the Suwannee River Authority and the Georgia Area Development and Planning Commission can develop a practical plan for a Suwannee River National Park on one suitable site and this then to be presented to the Congress through our own duly elected representatives, and such a park as this would fit into and complement the other developments on the river rather than disrupt them entirely.

Mr. TAYLOR. You and Robert Porter, using this, are speaking jointly for the Suwannee River Citizens Association?

Mrs. SHIFFLETTE. I am.

Thank you very much.

(Additional material supplied for the record by Mrs. Shifflette follows:)

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT BY MRS. CARL E. SHIFFLETTE, SECRETARY, SUWANNEE RIVER CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, BELL, FLA.

In addition to the misleading and outdated statistics in the Osterbind Report, his flat statement that the Suwannee River has never been related to the economy of the Valley is so preposterous as to discredit the entire report. The River is the lifeline of the Valley.

Under State and local management the over-all picture of the Suwannee Valley is one of burgeoning growth, and awareness of all its potentials, and especially its recreational and scenic assets. To subject the Suwannee and its tributaries to the stipulations in these Scenic Rivers bills would literally cut the heart out of North Florida.

These bills would tamper with the lives of thousands of people in the Suwannee Valley, with the most deep-seated human emotions, the grass-roots foundation of our national pride and patriotism.

To take away the Suwannee and its tributaries from State, County and private management would accomplish the same thing you would do if you cut the tap root off a pine tree. You would kill the tree. The diversified character of the Suwannee River will die if you include it in these Scenic Rivers bills, and with it one of the basic elements of our local, State and National pride.

We are opposed to any encroachment of Federal controls upon rivers that already have adequate programs of development and conservation through State and local governmental agencies and private enterprise.

Mr. TAYLOR. Senator, do you want to speak now, or let Mr. Robert Porter?

STATEMENT OF HON. L. P. PETE GIBSON, STATE SENATOR, FLORIDA

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Chairman, I was next on the agenda and if it is all right, I would like for my son and my aide to pass out to the members of the committee a copy of my statement.

I would like, sir, to take 1 minute to finish the statement of the chairman of the Suwannee River Authority. The authority is dedicated to prevent pollution, and is in the process of developing a system of detection and controls along the Suwannee River and its tributaries. Under this procedure, the authority will be able to move immediately to abate violations of State pollution laws.

In 1965, working in cooperation with the congressional delegation of the State of Florida, the Suwannee River Authority hosted a series of eight public meetings to discuss the proposal of the nationalization of the Suwannee River and its tributaries and to develop a voluntary expression of all of the citizens of the Suwannee River country. The results of these eight meetings as expressed by these interested citizens indicated that an overwhelming majority opposed this proposal and that actually less than 3 percent favored this proposal.