

some in other States. Further, thousands more have expressly stated to us that they share the views of our association. Our organization has constructive plans for assisting with future development and promotion of the Suwannee River Valley.

We request that your committee recommend that the Suwannee River and its tributaries be removed entirely from the wild and scenic rivers legislation. Before stating our reasons we would like to briefly describe what the Suwannee River is and what it means to the people who use it and enjoy it.

The people of Florida, on their own, have developed the recreational aspects of the Suwannee River. For example.

1. The Stephen Foster Memorial, a museum, carillon, and park built by the State of Florida.

2. Famous Hart Springs where Gilchrist County operates a complete recreational park with an 80-acre campground addition.

3. Three large State parks, Suwannee River, Manatee Springs, and O'Leno.

4. Countless free boat ramps; road-riverside parks; natural springs—both publicly and privately owned—some developed, some left open free to the public; camping grounds, picnic spots, hunting and fishing facilities, air stations for divers, motels, restaurants, and so forth.

5. A 700-acre recreational area now under development in Suwannee County.

All these developments fit in well with the overall Florida concept of being the "fun" State of the Union. Needless to say, Florida is oriented toward tourism. We feel that if any State is able to develop its own recreational areas, Florida has proven its capacity to do so in the past and will continue to do so in the future. This concern with recreation permeates down from State to local governments and private enterprises.

"Way down upon the Suwannee River" is not just a lazy river flowing through swamps filled with cypress trees and unused forest land, but rather it is a vital river flowing through areas of active development by private enterprise and local government. It runs through or forms the border for several small, hustling communities. Along its banks you find subdivisions for retiree homes and summer camps, religious institutions, developments by compatible industries such as agriculture, timber, and phosphate. In addition to the developed areas, parts of the river are in a partially wild state not accessible to the motoring public, being reached only by boat.

The Suwannee River is completely unique and as such merits special consideration by your committee. We ask that the Suwannee River and its tributaries be removed from the wild and scenic river legislation for the following reasons:

1. The staggering majority of people in the Suwannee River Valley do not want the Suwannee and its tributaries in such a system. This includes not only homeowners along the Suwannee and Ichetucknee, but motel and restaurant people, farmers, ranchers, timber owners, industrial developers, local organizations, and governments.

2. As we stated above, Florida is capable of developing its own recreational areas and has already taken the initiative to do so.

3. As diversified as the development is along the Suwannee, it does