

not lend itself to scenic or wild river concepts. To create such a river would entail expenditures of capital that would be impractical.

4. The people of Florida and Georgia, and more specifically the people in the Suwannee River Basin are not going to let any person or corporation pollute the Suwannee River. Florida, in fact, was the first State to have a pollution control program acceptable to the Federal Government. The Suwannee River Authority and we in Florida and Georgia will not let the Suwannee River or its tributaries be misused. An active program of control is under way.

5. At present we have periodic flooding of the river basin. A system of check dams is needed to prevent this waste. To put the Suwannee River in a wild or scenic river system would prevent the building of such dams, thereby subjecting owners of property along the river and the State to future losses caused by flooding.

Some of the proponents of the wild or scenic river legislation—namely, the Park Service—will tell you that such a program will bring unheard of prosperity to north central Florida.

(Mr. Porter's statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF SUWANNEE RIVER CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, PRESENTED BY
ROBERT T. PORTER, DIRECTOR

We appreciate this opportunity to be present before you and to explain the position of our Association. We are an independent, chartered organization, made up of thousands of members who are residents not only of the area immediately adjacent to the Suwannee River and its tributaries, but of the entire State of Florida, Georgia, and 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 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, etc.

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 towards 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 enterprise.

"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.