

Folks up in Michigan, say, don't understand this, and they don't realize all the wonderful things that are being done on the Suwannee River to preserve it.

Mr. ASPINALL. I say the same goes for a lot of people in Florida who seem to want to take care of the things in my district, too. They don't know a darned thing about what they are talking about.

Mrs. SHIFFLETTE. Many of them in Florida have never even seen the Suwannee River. For instance, a newspaper editor in Miami wrote an editorial which indicated that he didn't even know there were these roads and riverside parks at every U.S. highway crossing. So many people in Florida have never even seen the Suwannee River.

Mr. ASPINALL. A lot of people in Florida have never seen any of the beauties of a lot of places they write about in other parts of the Nation. I can understand.

Mr. TAYLOR. Anyone else have any questions?

Mr. MORTON. I would like to ask the Senator and the other witnesses here about one point: How do you feel about the whole idea of a national program for the preservation of scenic rivers, wild rivers, and the like?

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Morton, I think if you and the people in your district had a stream that was being abused, that needed this, I could see and understand the possible feasibility. Such as the Suwannee River is not the case.

Mr. MORTON. You didn't answer the question.

Mr. GIBSON. I beg your pardon, sir.

Mr. MORTON. What I am saying is, do you think we have arrived at a point in time when we need a national rivers system to preserve the natural beauty and the scenic characteristics and recreational characteristics, purity, and so forth, of our rivers in America? I am not saying that the Suwannee should be in it or should be out of it.

Mr. GIBSON. My answer to you, sir, is yes; if there is not a sufficient local control and there is obvious open abuse, and the people of that State or that area want it.

Mr. MORTON. Thank you very much.

Mr. GIBSON. I appreciate your asking the question, Congressman Morton.

Mr. MORTON. What about the other gentlemen or the lady? Do you have any feelings about this type of legislation so far as putting it on the books is concerned?

Mrs. SHIFFLETTE. It would depend entirely upon the nature of the river, whether it would be feasible, as Senator Gibson has said, wherefore, it is actually needed. We do not know about these other rivers, but we do know that it is not needed on the Suwannee.

Mr. MORTON. How about the St. Johns?

Mrs. SHIFFLETTE. Well, I would leave Congressman Bennett to talk to you about the St. Johns.

Mr. BROWN. The condition of the St. Johns.

Mr. MORTON. I beg your pardon?

Mr. BROWN. I say I would rather have Congressman Bennett speak to you about the St. Johns.

Mr. FUQUA. You had better have him talk to me. That is in my district.