

Our sport, as opposed to other sports such as motorboating, our sport deserves consideration for these reasons: Canoeing promotes physical fitness, causes no pollution of air or water, makes no noise, causes no disturbance such as wake or waves and gives a man time to enjoy his surroundings and blend with them.

We canoeists of the Greater New York area heartily endorse this legislation and urge its speedy passage. Already, as we prepare, proposed rivers are being withdrawn or attempted to be withdrawn as we have seen here this morning. We will never save too many rivers. The error will be to save too few.

We ask that you give us strong legislation protected from weakening amendments. It must protect not only the rivers, but the headwaters on which they depend and the watershed areas saving a segment of stream will be an empty gesture if this loses its water supply. Somehow later on provision will have to be made to protect the watersheds of our scenic rivers.

(Statement of Mr. Weiler follows:)

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM P. WEILER, PRESIDENT, NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY RIVER CONFERENCE

It is reassuring to conservationists and outdoor people to find our national legislators introducing bills such as these. It is gratifying to find them, not merely reflecting public opinion, but leading it. However, there is always the question, is our best good enough?

I would like to express some thoughts and opinions of the people I represent, canoeists and kayakers of the greater New York Metropolitan area. My organization is made up of seven clubs which total about 1,700 members. We not only canoe, but hike, swim, camp and fish as well.

I cannot emphasize too much how important we feel it is to establish a scenic rivers program, for the following reasons:

1. Man has in the past and continues at present to develop rivers and their valleys in the following manners and for uses:

- (a) To conveniently route highways.
- (b) To route his railroads.
- (c) Building dams for power.
- (d) Building dams for water storage.
- (e) Building dams for flood control.
- (f) Building dams for recreation.
- (g) Building dams for irrigation.
- (h) Building dams for real estate exploitation.

2. In many of these cases there is a built-in fallacy, at least where multiple use is claimed.

- (a) Siltation fills in the water storage area, often at an alarming rate.
- (b) Can flood control and recreation always be compatible? In the east, the latter is most needed during late summer and early fall, the hurricane season. Suppose, with a storm impending, the water behind the dam is dumped to make room for the anticipated deluge. Then the storm misses, leaving the reservoir empty. Recreation is lost.
- (c) Can water storage and recreation be compatible? During a hot draught, when recreation is most needed, the water level would recede.

3. When man builds a dam for recreation, he loses more than he gains.

- (a) He exchanges the native anadromous fish for lake fish.
- (b) Dams help motor boating but hurt canoeing.
- (c) A dam is not necessary for swimming, hiking, or camping.
- (d) Dams destroy more scenery than they create. The dam itself is ugly.
- (e) Natural habitat and scenery is replaced with artificial, at a great cost in time, money and energy.

4. On the other hand, the passage of this legislation will insure that at least