

a very small percentage of our rivers will be preserved in their free flowing condition the way nature created them.

(a) Natural scenery will be preserved.

(b) Natural habitat will be preserved for certain types of indigenous animal and plant populations of this environment.

(c) Sports such as canoeing, hiking, fishing and camping will be preserved in their original forms as practiced by the Indian and white settler. This is our heritage.

5. (a) We could already have too many dams. How many rivers do we have without a single dam? Many rivers exist today as a string of dams and lakes.

(b) We are constantly building new dams.

(c) The building of dams tends to perpetuate itself. Organizations are created, skilled people trained, and these must keep active and employed.

(d) We do not question that dams have certain usefulness, and that many are necessary. But it would seem to us that we are overbuilding.

6. Other changes that this legislation will protect our rivers from are:

(a) Pollution.

(b) Siltation.

(c) Construction such as highways, industry, etc.

(d) Atomic power plants. These too, will change our rivers, by warming their waters. Yes, we will need these things, and they may be preferable to dams and hydroelectric power. All the more reason to save just a few rivers.

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 Already, as we prepare, proposed rivers are being withdrawn. We will never save too many rivers, the error we will make will be to save too few.

We ask that you give us strong legislation, protect it from weakening amendments. It must protect not only the rivers, but the headwaters on which they depend.

Mr. TAYLOR. Thank you, Mr. Weiler.

You are in agreement with Mr. Quick?

Mr. WEILER. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Anyone else have any questions?

The gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KYL. I wonder what you refer to in the way of weakening amendments? Amendments like what?

Mr. WEILER. I would think certainly not being anything like an expert on legislation—

Mr. KYL. You make a statement here, you don't want any weakening amendments. What do you mean?

Mr. WEILER. I would like to see a strong bill when it is passed.

Mr. KYL. What is a strong bill?

Mr. WEILER. A bill very similar to some of the bills which are being studied by this committee, in particular Representative Aspinall's bill is a good bill, and also Representative Saylor's bill is a good bill.

Mr. KYL. If you compare those, one of them is approximately 20 times stronger than the other one.

Mr. WEILER. Well, that is true. Perhaps if the bill is too strong it won't pass.

Mr. KYL. The thing I guess I am trying to tell you here we have so many people write us letters and come to testify before the committee and always they talk about weakening amendments. Now, the job of this committee is to write a bill which satisfies the majority of the people and does the greatest amount of good that can be done at reasonable cost, and we don't think any amendment adopted by this committee is a weakening amendment. It is too easy for you people to think that any amendment is a weakening amendment.