

the testimony of former Chairman Swidler points up the fact that the Commission, depending upon its composition, could at any time reverse the decision of the Commission as announced in the opinion No. 511 of January 5, 1967. It seems to us that, if for no other reason, this fact strongly indicates the need for favorable consideration of the pending bill.

Therefore, we all feel that putting our utilities under the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission would just be a duplication of controls and one that is not needed at this time.

We are certainly grateful to you for allowing us to express our feelings in regard to H.R. 5348 and related bills. We feel that our Congressmen are doing a fine job in keeping control of our affairs in the hands of our own people. We approve of this bill and respectfully request that you report it favorably.

Thank you, Mr. Macdonald.

Mr. MACDONALD. Thank you, Mr. Welch. I just have two short questions of you.

Is there a national organization of the REA?

Mr. WELCH. Yes; the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. They will take an opposite view from that which our statewide association has taken at the present time, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. How do you explain that?

Mr. WELCH. We feel in our group that we have a different situation in Florida than that which has existed in other parts of the country, sir.

Since we have been respectfully treated by the majority of our people down there we felt we were better able on our own grounds to take care of our affairs than to have it taken care of here in Washington. Our national people do not agree with this. We are not here without the knowledge of our administrator, Mr. Clapp. He knows we are here and he has approved of our action. He says "I can't agree with what you are thinking but you boys are down there running your own show. You have done a good job of it. I am not going to interfere or bother with it."

Mr. MACDONALD. All right. The second question refers to page 2 in your statement. You said that the only time that the Federal Power Commission has intervened in cooperatives' rates, the cooperative came out a heavy loser.

Mr. WELCH. Yes.

Mr. MACDONALD. Would you like to document that?

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I don't think the Commission, at the time they reviewed this case—and it was a case between the city of Clewiston—

Mr. MACDONALD. The city of what?

Mr. WELCH. Clewiston, Fla. The city of Clewiston is known as the "sugar town of Florida" and for many years the policies and affairs of that utility down there have been handled more or less by the U.S. Sugar Corp. They had a rather unique situation in which the Florida Power & Light Co., was selling power to the cooperative. Florida Power & Light Co., has no commitments to any municipality. The municipality of Clewiston was buying its power from the U.S. Sugar Corp. The Sugar Corp., did not have enough power as the city grew to take care of it. So it appealed to the cooperative and the cooperative