

electric power company, there is little which is intrastate about the activities of the company. Stock in the private utility companies of Florida is owned nationwide by people living in every state: fuel for the production of power is mined in West Virginia and transported to the generating plants, or piped from the oil fields of Louisiana and Texas. The equipment, towers, electric distribution wires, transformers, generator motors, motor vehicles, all essential to the maintenance and operation of the companies, are purchased in other states and pass through interstate commerce daily to supply their needs. The financial centers of America, outside of the State of Florida, have provided the capital with which the companies have been able to expand. Their sources of labor come from many states and are trained in institutions of higher learning throughout the United States. I am well aware that such an argument might be made for any industry or business, but power companies by their very nature are monopolistic. The Public Service Commission guarantees to them an income and rate of return; they are protected by the government to an extent that few other business concerns can enjoy.

The energy requirements of the City of Ocala are an insignificant part of the economy of Florida Power Corporation. In the industry we are a small minnow in a big pond. We have neither the weight, influence, nor resources that the big power companies of Florida can muster to shape the future and destiny of state legislation or administrative regulation.

I am advised that H.R. 5348 and similar legislation introduced this year was motivated in part by the ruling of the Federal Power Commission that Florida Power & Light Company is subject to its jurisdiction. I have no knowledge of the facts which resulted in this conclusion, but it would seem to me that if, as the company contends, its activities are wholly intrastate and were never intended to be subject to F.P.C. jurisdiction, the matter should be resolved by the courts and not by congressional act.

I would respectfully urge the Subcommittee to reject H.R. 5348 and all similar bills.

I sincerely request that you include this letter in the record of hearings on H.R. 5348.

Sincerely yours,

WALLACE E. STURGIS, Jr.,
Attorney for the City of Ocala.

CITY OF AUSTIN,
Austin, Tex., November 1, 1967.

HON. TORBERT H. MACDONALD,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Communications and Power, Interstate and Foreign
Commerce Committee, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

SIR: The City of Austin a municipal electric utility in Austin, Texas would like to go on record in favor of House Bill 5348 (introduced by Rep. Rogers and Rep. Dante Fascell) and is filing with the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee a copy of this letter indicating the position of the City of Austin Electric Utility.

The Austin Electric System, a municipally owned system, serves the area of a ten mile radius around the City of Austin, consisting of about 415 sq. miles and 83,000 customers. The electric power and energy is supplied by two steam electric plants which has a capacity of 500,000 kilowatts. The 69 KV transmission grid loop network system serving the customers has three interconnections with the Lower Colorado River Authority system for emergency standby service. These interconnections provides strong ties with the other members of the Texas Interconnected Systems.

The Texas Interconnected System has been in operation for over a quarter of a century and has proven very satisfactory. The history of operation of this system clearly points out that investor owned, municipals, state and REA cooperative systems can and have worked in complete harmony to give the customer the best reliable service and at low electric rates. Also this combination of electric utilities interconnected provides adequate "backup" capacity for emergencies and greater service reliability.

The imposition of additional excess new regulations upon our system is unnecessary and will be detrimental to our quality of service, and we urge your favorable consideration of House Bill 5348.

Yours very truly,

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEX.,
D. C. KINNEY, Director, Electric Utility.