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HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-FIRST CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 4

TO ESTABLISH THE BIG THICKET NATIONAL PARK IN TEXAS

JUNE 12, 1970

BEAUMONT, TEXAS



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BIG THICKET NATIONAL PARK

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1970

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Beaumont, Tex.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 8 a.m., in the U.S. district courtroom, Beaumont, Tex., Senator Alan Bible (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senators Bible and Yarborough.

Also present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director; Bernard Hartung, professional staff member; and Thomas Nelson, minority counsel.

Senator BIBLE. Ladies and gentlemen, it is 8 o'clock. I lost some time coming down from Washington. That is usually the way it happens when you come out of the Capital.

I want to tell you I am mighty glad to be here with my close and good friend, Senator Yarborough. We have worked closely together over the last 10 or 12 years in the U.S. Senate. He is a true conservationist.

It has been my privilege to be associated with him in the Padre Island National Seashore in Corpus Christi. We had the money to finance it and we have had some problems with it that were pretty well worked out.

Then we worked on the Guadalupe Mountain National Park over in the El Paso section in Texas.

I visited here many times in your great State and it is a great State. This is the first time I have been to Beaumont and I am looking forward with a great deal of interest and excitement to the very fine program that is laid out for today.

Mr. Reporter—and I want all of you to know this is one of America's finest reporters; he is featured on television all the time with Bill C. Fulbright. He covers all of the Foreign Relations Committee hearings for the U.S. Senate, and is constantly featured on all of the public interviews. He can improve his profile and look handsomer but he comes along with us on these park hearings. He gives us the expertise in reporting that we need for those of us in the U.S. Senate who frequently are saying things where we want to correct the record and maybe we should correct the record, and Ben corrects it for us. So we are very happy to have Ben here as one of the top men.

We have Jerry Verkler, our staff director, who is here with us today; he is the head man of the Interior Committee, and is a young man of great competence, and has been with the committee for many years, first coming there with Senator Anderson, the chairman from New

Mexico, and he stayed on with Senator Jackson of Washington, who is the present chairman, and likewise has gone on many of these field hearings with us.

We have Mr. Nelson, who is the minority counsel of the Senate Interior Committee.

I think it is important for backgrounds to note that the Senate Interior Committee is a committee of 17 members. The subcommittee, of which I am honored to be the chairman, is a nine-man subcommittee.

We have also from the staff level Mr. Hartung, who is immediately attached to the park hearings and is in effect an advance man, to go into the areas to line up the witnesses, to attempt to be helpful to them, to urge them to furnish where it is conveniently possible the witness lists so that we can run our hearings with, we hope, the fairness that every hearing should have.

We have with us this morning as an interested observer the head man of the Park Service, George Hartzog.

Will you stand—so you know who he is.

We will not use him here as a witness.

We are here today for the purpose of hearing your story, to hear both sides of the problem, to hear whatever particular problems are imposed and which confront us as we move forward in this Big Thicket hearing.

We also have Tom Flynn, who is from the National Park Service, and is likewise a very valuable ally as we attempt to move these park projects and recreation areas forward.

Now, I do want to recognize, I have invited him to sit here with me throughout these hearings, your own distinguished Senator from the State of Texas, Ralph Yarborough, and, Ralph, I would be delighted to have you make just whatever type of opening statement you would like to make.

Before you do that, I do, Mr. Reporter, want to include in the record at this point as the basis for our hearing your bill to create the Big Thicket National Park and, Mr. Reporter, that bill will be made a part of the record in this hearing at this point.

The number of it is S. 4, introduced by Senator Ralph Yarborough. (The bill and reports follow :)

[S. 4, 91st Cong., second sess.]

A BILL To establish the Big Thicket National Park in Texas

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to preserve in public ownership an area in the State of Texas possessing outstanding botanical and zoological values together with scenic and other natural values of great significance, the Secretary of the Interior shall establish the Big Thicket National Park, consisting of land and interests in land not [less than] to exceed one hundred thousand acres in Hardin, Liberty, San Jacinto, Polk, and Tyler Counties, Texas.

Sec. 2. (a) To establish the Big Thicket National Park, the Secretary of the Interior may acquire land or interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or in such other manner as he deems to be in the public interest. Wherever feasible, land shall be acquired by transfer from other Federal agencies.

Any property, or interest therein, owned by the State of Texas or political subdivision thereof may be acquired only with the concurrence of such owner.

(b) In order to facilitate the acquisition of privately owned lands in the park by exchange and avoid the payment of severance costs, the Secretary of the Interior may acquire land which lies adjacent to or in the vicinity of the park.

Land so acquired outside the park boundary may be exchanged by the Secretary on an equal-value basis, subject to such terms, conditions, and reservations as he may deem necessary, for privately owned land located within the park. The Secretary may accept cash from or pay cash to the grant or in such exchange in order to equalize the values of the properties exchanged.

SEC. 3. When title to all privately owned land within the boundary of the park, other than such outstanding interests, rights, and easements as the Secretary determines are not objectionable, is vested in the United States, notice thereof and notice of the establishment of the Big Thicket National Park shall be published in the Federal Register. Thereafter, the Secretary may continue to acquire the remaining land and interests in land within the boundaries of the park.

SEC. 4. The Big Thicket National Park shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1-4), as amended and supplemented.

SEC. 5. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such funds as are necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., November 23, 1970.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your committee has requested the views of this Department on S. 4, a bill to establish the Big Thicket National Park in Texas.

S. 4, as introduced by Senator Yarborough, H.R. 18498, as introduced by Representative Bush, H.R. 18527, as introduced by Representative Eckhardt, and H.R. 14391, as introduced by Representative Dowdy (for himself and Mr. Cabell), all have the objective of preserving the Big Thicket area through Federal involvement.

S. 4 directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish not less than 100,000 acres in Hardin, Liberty, San Jacinto, Polk, and Tyler Counties, Tex., as the Big Thicket National Park, H.R. 18498, as introduced by Representative Bush, and H.R. 18527, as introduced by Representative Eckhardt, authorize the establishment of the Big Thicket National Park of not more than 150,000 acres and 185,000 acres, respectively. H.R. 14391, as introduced by Representative Dowdy (for himself and Mr. Cabell), would authorize establishment of a Big Thicket national monument of not to exceed 35,000 acres.

This Department has undertaken recreation studies of the general Big Thicket area. In its 1969 report entitled, "*This Land is Our Land*," the Interim Committee on Parks and Recreation of the Texas Senate has recommended a State-pilot study of the feasibility of establishing a wild and scenic river below one such portion of the Neches River.

Also, the Department of the Interior intends to make a study of the Big Thicket area.

This Department is committed to the development of a program for the preservation of portions of the Big Thicket area. Action to preserve and interpret a significant portion of the Big Thicket will be highly desirable in the interest of conservation. This appears to be one of the few places where there are found in such close proximity the opportunities for meaningful contributions to the scientific and recreational resources.

While this Department feels that preservation of portions of the Big Thicket is a desirable objective, we believe that the results of the Department of the Interior study are essential before we can make any constructive recommendations regarding legislative action. For this reason, we recommend that action on S. 4 be deferred.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. SMITH,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D.C., June 15, 1970.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your request for the views of the Bureau of the Budget on S. 4, a bill to establish the Big Thicket National Park in Texas.

The Bureau of the Budget recommends deferral of action on this bill for reasons stated in the report of the Department of the Interior.

Sincerely,

WILFRED H. ROMMEL,
Assistant Director of Legislative Reference.

Now, Senator Yarborough.

STATEMENT OF HON. RALPH W. YARBOROUGH, U.S. SENATOR FROM
THE STATE OF TEXAS

Senator YARBOROUGH. Chairman Bible, thank you very much for your kind words and thank you for coming here to hold these hearings.

I would like to mention to the people here that Senator Bible, as chairman of this nine-man Park Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate, has the requests of people from many States of the Union urging him to hear them. He is also chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, and there is not enough money to go around to create all of the needed national parks, so he must evaluate them. Where the need is critical, as for example, where the ecology of the situation might change, I think he gives those some preference. Since he is here in my home State, I want to tell the people of Texas how greatly indebted we are to Senator Bible.

We have three national parks in Texas now, the Big Bend National Park, the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and the Padre Island National Park. It has been under the chairmanship of Senator Bible, his ability to work, that the Padre Island National Park and Guadalupe National Park have been established in Texas.

The subcommittee is not able to establish all the parks that are requested, and a great many national parks won't be created. There is often opposition to parks. In many cases somebody wants to do something else with the land. The land is shrinking so fast that the chances for preserving wild areas throughout the United States are diminishing. I just want to point out that it is through Senator Bible's great diligence that we have saved much in this country as we have.

He was just telling me that he has just come back from a trip on the Connecticut River with Senator Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut and Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts. The Connecticut River was once a most beautiful river valley, as was the Hudson. Senator Bible said it is still one of the most beautiful river valleys in America, but that it is being polluted and spoiled and he is working with them to try to save a portion of that.

We are very grateful to Senator Bible for his dedication to conservation all over America.

He is from Nevada, and I think his being from the great West is great help to those of us from the western areas.

I have the privilege of serving on the Appropriations Committee with Senator Bible. After you have passed legislation to create a park, that does not mean that you necessarily will have one unless you can get the money. We have had such great budget stringencies in the United States due to the cost of the war in Vietnam, that although this subcommittee, under his leadership, created the Padre Island National Park in 1962, and Guadalupe Mountain in 1966, we could not get the money to pay for them until last fall. It was only with his help over in another committee, the Appropriations Committee, that we finally got the money appropriated to pay for Guadalupe Mountains National Park and the Padre Island National Park. Now that this has been accomplished, we can concentrate on the Big Thicket. This is why we are now able to go ahead with this hearing today.

I am very pleased that these hearings are being held because our hearing on Padre Island was held in Corpus Christi in 1959. We could not really get going on that park until a hearing was held in the State where people could see it.

Senator Bible, with your indulgence, I would like to introduce two of my staff members who have been here in the past weeks working with your staff and with the Park staff to help telescope this hearing into one day. You and Mr. Hartzog have a very lousy schedule, for President Lyndon Johnson's birthplace is to be dedicated, and the Secretary of the Interior Hickel is to be there and many Members of Congress will also attend.

Senator Bible originally planned to have this hearing today and through tomorrow, but the President's birthplace is being designated as a national historic shrine tomorrow, and Senator Bible and many other Members of Congress are going over there as protocol.

Senator Bible moved these hearings up to 8 o'clock and the schedule calls for him to be carrying on until 3 o'clock, so that all witnesses will have an opportunity to testify.

I want to introduce these members of my staff:

Benton Musselwhite of Lufkin, Tex., who is my legislative assistant, and Bill Reid of Austin, who is my legislative aide. Both of these men have been working and helping us plan these hearings and the tour of the Big Thicket.

Mr. Chairman, in my 13 years in the Senate, I have testified on many, many bills, but it gives me great pleasure, I believe, to testify on this bill to establish the Big Thicket National Park than any other bill. This is S. 4. I introduced the bill originally in 1966 and then I reintroduced it in the next session, in 1967. The Big Thicket bill was numbered S. 4 in the 90th Congress, and it is again S. 4 in the 91st Congress. We hope there is some symbolism in the top four numbers on the calendar that the clerk awarded us.

I grew up on the banks of the Neches River, which is an integral part of this area which we are proposing to be made a national park. My home was in Henderson County, a mile from the Neches River.

I heard of the Big Thicket so far back, I cannot remember the first time I heard of it.

The area in which I grew up was at the western edge of the Eastern Timber Zone and I saw the pileated woodpecker. I think I saw an

ivory billed woodpecker when I was a small boy. It had been shot in the wing and it was so unusual that all the men in the town gathered around. They were not accustomed to seeing such a large woodpecker, and they gathered around to marvel at it for they hadn't seen one. That was one of the last ivory bills in the Upper Neches.

I saw these great flights of ducks and geese and blackbirds coming down from the Mississippi Flyway up there in the timber part of east Texas.

When I was a boy, Mr. Chairman, I would stand out along the river before I was old enough to go to school, watching great flights of birds fly over for hours, birds filling the sky in this great area. I recall that turtles, snakes, frogs, and alligators were near the borders of our sloughs and ponds, and the gar and trout were near their surfaces. Herons, egrets, and cranes waded the shores or perched on lookout points. Kingfishers and water turkeys sat on the bare boughs of dead trees over the water.

I would fish on the bank and it was kind of interesting how they could sit there without moving. The virgin hardwood forest, where I grew up, was unfenced. I could leave my home and roam through the woods and roam along the Neches River with my dogs and fish-hooks, and often carried a little salt in my pocket because I would eat out in the woods and catch a few fish and eat them myself.

This is an area where there are wild plums and mulberries in spring and summer, grapes in abundance in summer and fall, a multiplicity of species of grapes, the muscadines and the mustang grapes, the possum grapes, and many other types of wild grapes. You also can find muscadines and persimmons, red haws and black haws, chinquapins and hickory nuts, mayhaws and the kernels of nettles.

All these are food producing plants in the woods. I ate from the field and forest and sometimes sitting alone on the banks of those springs the wind rustled through the leaves of trees and as I think back, I think they were talking to us.

As I have gotten older, I realized they were talking to us, they were crying out for the salvation of our trees, wildlife and rich heritage, so the coming generations of Americans could see a part of what we had seen.

Now America is fenced up—

Senator BIBLE. Congressman Eckhardt, I am delighted to see you at the hearings this morning. Why don't you take a seat right there? We have you listed as our second witness, right after Senator Yarborough.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, my feeling for this area is a very close and personal one. When the first Europeans came to this Texas area, they found this as a dense thicket. It was too dense to carry troops through or too dense to drive wagons through so they went north of it through Nacogdoches on what was called the Old Texas Road, and sometimes they went south of the Big Thicket along the coast but this area, which covered $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, was skipped largely.

Up until the 1930's when the Big Thicket Association was formed, it had been cut back from $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres to $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres. And now only 300,000 are left, less than 10 percent of the original size. It is an area of flowering trees, flowers and native plants, giant mag-

nolias, bay trees, and wild peach trees. It is interesting that as the Ice Age pushed southward over the forests of Canada, as the glaciers retreated, the northern trees died out in between, but this soil fitted them and the sugar maple, and both red and white birch thrived and are still here in the Thicket. It is a wonderful thing, but I am going to leave this description for others. We will have experts on botany, ecology, and biology here and I will leave these descriptions to them.

We are very aware of our population explosion. There are 205 million people in the United States, and they are crowding the parks and lakes and rivers and scenic areas and just hoping for a little clean air and clean water to look at, to try to see a part of America the way it was.

There are over 31½ million people living within a hundred miles of the Big Thicket, and over 13 million within 250 miles, an easy day's drive. And these people need recreation, and a chance to see the grandeur of nature.

I have been writing letters to the people for years about the Big Thicket. I told them that we would try to get action as soon as we could get the Padre Island bill and the other out of the way.

I personally have traveled through this area a good many times. It is not necessary for me to describe it, as it will be described by the people who follow me, and I will forego that, except to say that I am most pleased that the present bill calling for the establishment of a national park of at least 100,000 acres has been drafted, and that I have introduced these bills for a Big Thicket National Park since 1966, and I am very happy that we are having these hearings.

I have envisioned my original bill as I have conferred with naturalists and with people who have been through the Big Thicket and people who have worked with it all their lives. Recently I spoke to the Secretary of the Interior, Walter Hickel, and he said, "Why not 300,000 acres?" and I said, "I wish we could," but we have to skip the towns and developed parts, and it seems to me just a minimal size ought to be 100,000 acres to make it feasible to purchase it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I come to a final point. The argument has been made that if we do establish a park, it will hurt the economy of the area. The argument is that if we do put a national park in here, this area will be closed to productive economic use. They say that it would hurt the area, it would hurt the economy, and people have been saying even it would close the schools and they would lose their homes if we create a national park.

As a matter of fact, our national parks are extremely valuable economic entities in our Nation's economy and the national park has a tremendously favorable economic impact on the particular area in which it is located.

In a recent study sponsored by the National Park Service conducted by Dr. Ernest S. Swanson under the title, "Travel and the National Parks: An Economic Study" (1969) these conclusions were reached:

The computations made show that national parks contribute as much as \$6.4 billion to the sales of a multitude of firms throughout the Nation. From this amount, personal income of \$4,762,530,000 is generated . . . Travel to the National Park System resulted in \$952 million in taxes for the federal government in 1967.

And Dr. Swanson concludes:

These results do not represent the further indirect effects upon regions in which National parks are located. Over a period, other spending results from expansion of local activities directed toward creating attractions in addition to natural beauties and wonders of the region.

As an example, specialized provisions for hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, picnicking, and sightseeing on Indian reservations are often undertaken through the stimulus of the flow of visitors to national parks. The study relates that economists in Colorado alone, State economists, estimate that over \$1.2 billion is generated from hunting and fishing alone, and many of the people who went there to see national parks saw other areas outside of the parks. The effect spills all over other areas opening up great hunting areas and this study concludes, I am reading now from the study on the value of national parks:

"The National Park System with appropriations of around \$102 million contributes at least 45 times this amount to the American people in the way of increased income—or more than 55 times the appropriations when income is stated as gross national product. Add to such amounts the indeterminable but large values growing out of the culture and historical contributions, as well as the stimulations of economic growth, we then see in our national park system an asset structure few others may eclipse."

There has been another recent study prepared for the National Park Service that is even more pertinent to this proposal today, and that is by Dr. William B. Beyers, and his study is entitled, "An Economic Impact Study of Mt. Rainier and Olympic National Parks, February 1970. These are rugged, forested areas and are probably comparable to the Big Thicket National Park in their attraction to visitors. The Big Thicket, of course, would have a much longer tourist season because of the favorable climate.

It was found that in 1968, visitors to these two parks spent \$36.2 million, \$30.9 million of which was spent in Washington State. The two parks combined supported the annual equivalent of 4,800 jobs.

"In summary, these analyses indicated that our National Parks, which were set aside as preserves for some of our most magnificent natural environments, also are of significant importance to our economy. In this growing nation, with increased leisure, affluence, population, and mobility, these Parklands probably will have an even more important economic impact and social value in the future, if we are able to preserve those qualities of park landscapes which today attracts so many visitors . . . The magnitude of the impacts measured in this study suggests that it is economically desirable to be sure that we preserve our National Parklands for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations."

A recent study of deep east Texas commented on the economy of the area:

"The Deep East Texas Area, being mostly rural in nature, has not received much economic benefit from the tremendous economic growth the state has experienced since World War II. Actually, this area has experienced a decline due to the vast migration of workers of the metropolitan areas."

As a native of Henderson County in east Texas where I lived until I was 24 years of age, we east Texans know the population of those rural counties has gone down and down. The farming has gone down and it is a temporary economy and you have to wait until you grow the trees until you have a job for somebody.

The deep east Texas study found:

"Population in the Deep East Texas area will remain stable as long as there are the same number of jobs for people to gain their subsistence from. No community can grow without additional demands for employment. This area is beautiful, peaceful and a very enjoyable place to live, to work, to rear a family and to achieve educational, cultural and social satisfaction. However, until such time as there are more jobs made available in the area, there will be no population increase."

Actually, fellow east Texans, we are losing population all the time. Rather than injuring the economy of the area, based upon these studies, it is clear that having a national park in the area would give it a much needed boost, and would help in the development of a broader and stronger economic base rather than one founded primarily on lumbering.

Studies conducted for the National Park Service show that national parks are a tremendously valuable asset in economic terms alone, how much money they bring in to the people, aside from their esthetic and social value.

Any argument that a 100,000 acre park will injure the economy is refuted by these facts. It just simply won't hold water.

This is a very modest proposal for this 100,000 acre park. In proper perspective it may seem small, but we have tried to get something modest enough to accomplish it. This represents only 3.3 percent of the acreage of those counties affected 600,000.

The Big Thicket National Park has obtained tremendous support from many individuals and organizations.

The Big Thicket is a valuable and unique national treasure.

I submit, Mr. Chairman, the time to act to save the Big Thicket is now. Establishing this park is a very sound investment in our future and in the quality of life for future generations.

Mr. Chairman, the creation of the Big Thicket National Park is not primarily to benefit the plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, flowers, and other wild living things there. As much as we love it, as much as they will be talked about, the park is for the people, for people's lives to be enriched by the wild things they thrill to see, hear, smell, and sometimes taste and touch.

The real issue, Mr. Chairman, you are going to hear today is pulpwood versus the people. The issue is not taxes or profits because if we create this park, there will be more taxes, taxes from surrounding businesses that always grow up to support the steady tourist trade, than from just the occasional crop of pulpwood, and there will be far more total profit for far more people who serve the coming tide of tourism than for the total profits of the few who must wait for years to harvest a crop of pulpwood. This park will provide a new crop of tourists each year, not for 3 summer months but virtually the year round, without damage to the area, instead of having to wait 10 years for each crop of pulpwood. If we decrease the motivation for the creation of the park to a cold dollars and cents taxes and profits proposition, many argue that "We will lose money, we have to make money." If we put this down to cold dollars and cents, it would go through like that. It would mean so much more to people than a crop of pulpwood. There are more taxes and profits for the counties involved in the creation of a National Park than in being condemned to a virtual no-growth pulp-

wood economy. That is what we have in this area, a no-growth pulp-wood economy.

I am not an enemy of the lumber interests. I have helped them over many years in my 13 years in the Senate, but they have been short-sighted in fighting this park. It is pulpwood against the people and the things people have, and right and justice, I think, Mr. Chairman, demand that the people win.

I thank you very much.

(Senator Yarborough's complete statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. RALPH W. YARBOROUGH, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE
STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure to testify on my bill to establish a Big Thicket National Park. I request consent of the committee that my bill, S. 4, be printed at this point in the record.

Mr. Chairman, this is a great day and a long awaited event for me. Being here in Beaumont, in my native East Texas, on the Neches River by whose banks I grew up, and testifying on my bill to establish a Big Thicket National Park, is a long-anticipated pleasure.

As a boy, I grew up in East Texas, between the Neches River and Kickapoo Creek in Henderson County, on the western edge of the eastern timber zone. That was my place of residence until I was 24 years of age. I watched the pileated woodpecker hammer away at big trees, saw the great flights of geese and ducks and blackbirds that filled the skies fifty years ago, hour after hour as they migrated in the Mississippi Flyway, I marveled as a boy at their numbers. Those great numbers are gone today. The turtles, snakes, frogs, and alligators were near the borders of our sloughs and ponds, the gar and trout were near their surfaces. Herons, egrets and cranes waded the shores or perched on lookout points. Kingfishers and water turkeys sat on the bare boughs of dead trees over the water, more patient than human fishermen. The virgin hardwood forest was unfenced. I roamed these woods with only my fish hooks and dogs, watched the birds and fished for catfish and perch.

The forest fed me, with wild plums and mulberries in spring and summer, grapes in abundance in summer and fall, muscadines and persimmons, red haws and black haws, chinquapins and hickory nuts, mayhaws and the kernels of nettles. I ate from the field and forest and fried my fish on the river bank, carrying only salt with me. As I sat alone on the bank of spring branches or creeks and rivers, and fished and watched the birds and other wildlife, as free as an Indian boy, except for my store bought clothes, the wind rustled the leaves of trees, and I imagined, as a boy will, that the trees were talking to me. But the trees seemed to be saying Indian words, like I read from Hiawatha, that I did not quite understand. Now I understand that they were crying out for the salvation of our trees, our wildlife and our rich heritage.

Now a fenced-up America has ended wild, free, open and uncrowded woods forever. I have worked for years to help save a part of this heritage, in the hopes that many generations yet to come can yet catch a glimpse of some part of the continent as it was when our ancestors first saw it. I feel akin to the things that I saw, hunted, lived with and loved in these East Texas woods a half century ago.

The feeling I have for this area is a very close and personal one, but the need to preserve its unique and varied beauty is founded on much more than one man's reminiscences. The Big Thicket is rich in plantlife, wildlife, history and culture. It is a great living treasure of nature which we cannot afford to let be killed. The people here today to testify will provide many details and reasons why the Big Thicket must be preserved.

This opportunity to preserve and make available for viewing one of the world's great remaining undestroyed natural living botanical developments and ecological wonder areas in my native East Texas means a great deal to me. The Big Thicket once extended over twelve Southeast Texas counties, covering about three

and a half million acres. It has now shrunk to far less than four counties or parts of counties in area, or about 300,000 acres, in the face of the cutting and killing edge of advancing civilization. The urgency of preserving a portion of this magnificent forest of sandy soil and rolling terrain, with its rich wildlife, its tremendous variety of flowering trees, flowers and other native plants, has been sounded again and again. But man's relentless tendency to destroy that which is beautiful has not yet been halted.

For too many years this nation has counted its blessings in bounteous natural resources, without pausing to consider the future. Our natural resources have been the firm foundation for the nation's marvelous industrial structure which is the wonder of the entire world and a standard of living which is the envy of all.

Only recently have we begun to recognize and realize that there is a limit to all good things. Some of our natural resources are seen not to be limitless, but in some cases, to be reaching the stringent limitation of scarcity. The population explosion has over 205,000,000 Americans crowding the parks, lakes, rivers and scenic areas, gasping for fresh air, clean water, and a view of the primitive natural America that was. One of our most pressing obligations is to insure that our natural resources are sufficient, not only for our generation, but for those yet to come.

As the nation becomes more crowded and the vast majority of citizens live and work within the urban areas, the demand for a quiet, natural place for relaxation, recreation, and spiritual restoration becomes far more acute. There are over three and one half million people who live within 100 miles of the Big Thicket, and over 13 million within 250 miles, an easy day's drive. These millions of people, and millions of more throughout the nation, need natural recreation areas and are seeking places where they can enjoy the relaxing influence of a quiet forest, or a tree shaded place by running waters, filled with the wonders of nature.

Mr. Chairman, I originally introduced a bill substantially the same as this one in October of 1966, as S. 3929 of the 89th Congress, and reintroduced it again in January 1967, as S. 4 of the 90th Congress. It was presented as an integral part of my overall agenda for the conservation and preservation of our natural resources, and it followed the establishment of the Padre Island National Seashore in 1962 and the Guadalupe Mountains National Park in 1966. In this 91st Congress, this bill, S. 4, is the highest priority item on my conservation agenda, as it is on the agenda of many conservation organizations in Texas and the nation.

Since the introduction of the original bill in 1966, I have received a vast amount of support for such legislation. There is substantial agreement in all quarters that some form of preservation of the Big Thicket is needed—indeed, imperative. There is great concern that immediate action be taken to preserve at least some of this area, thereby saving a portion of one of the most stimulating and unique of our wilderness areas.

The Big Thicket is a beautiful and unique area of heavy rainfall and dense vegetation, which covers parts of Hardin, Polk, Tyler, Liberty, and San Jacinto Counties, near Beaumont, Texas. It is one of our country's most valuable regions of biological and ecological development. Until recently, this portion of the Texas gulf plains has remained an unspoiled refuge for rare species of plant and animal life. However, increasing development and exploitation of the area now threatens the existence of the Big Thicket as an identifiable ecological unity.

When first seen by Europeans, the Big Thicket, a forest barrier to pioneer travel, contained about 3½ million acres. Forty years ago, logging and agriculture had cut that original acreage to one and a half million acres. Now only a few hundred thousand acres remain; probably a 10 percent remnant of one of the most unique growths and areas in Texas.

Time is running out. We simply do not have the luxury to deal leisurely with this matter—or with any matter that concerns conservation of our natural resources. The Big Thicket is vanishing at the rate of some 50 acres per day. That does not leave us much time. And, we must remember, once we have depleted and destroyed the natural beauty of our wilderness we can never again replace it. The process is—tragically—irreversible.

I have personally traveled through the Big Thicket area, viewing its huge trees and dense undergrowth at firsthand. The many rare and beautiful birds: water, land, trees, and air birds, including possibly the last ivory-billed woodpecker,

over 300 species of birds in all; the wild animals such as the deer and wildcat; the fast vanishing alligator; plants, including the exotic wild orchids, azaleas, and gardenias—all make it a wonderful sight to behold. Its sloughs and creeks, magnolia trees, palmettos, and water plants create an aura of the primeval beginning of our world.

Four of the five carnivorous plants found in North America are in this Big Thicket. The largest living examples of three different species of American trees are found there. Sugar maples, and white beech from the far north, relics and residents left behind by the Ice Age grow here alongside sweet bay trees, flowering magnolias, 40-foot high wild peach trees, and flowering shrubs, climbing vines, and clinging Spanish moss.

As a whole, this unique phenomenon of ecological unity is irreplaceable—but it will be lost forever unless immediate action is taken to preserve its many treasures for future generations to see.

Mr. Chairman, the proposal before this committee is to establish a Big Thicket National Park of at least 100,000 acres. A variety of other proposals have been submitted and will be discussed, among them the "string of pearls" proposal of about 35,000 acres. The primary argument for a small park—or no park at all—is that the economy of the area cannot afford to set aside such a large area. This argument is fallacious and based on unwarranted assumptions.

The implication of these arguments is that by designating an area a national park, it is forever closed to productive economic use. As a matter of fact, our national parks are extremely valuable economic entities in our nation's economy and a national park has a tremendously favorable economic impact upon the particular area in which it is located.

In a recent study sponsored by the National Park Service, conducted by Dr. Ernst S. Swanson, "Travel and the National Parks: An Economic Study" (1969), these conclusions were reached:

"The computations made show that national parks contribute as much as \$6.4 billion to the sales of a multitude of firms throughout the nation. From this amount, personal income of \$4,762,530,000 is generated. . . . Travel to the National Park System resulted in \$952 million in taxes for the Federal Government in 1967".

"These results do not represent the further indirect effects upon regions in which National parks are located. *Over a period, other spending results from expansion of local activities directed toward creating attractions in addition to natural beauties and wonders of the region.*"

As an example, specialized provisions for hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, picnicking, and sightseeing on Indian Reservations are often undertaken through the stimulus of the flow of visitors to National parks. The study relates that economists in Colorado estimate that over 01.2 billion is generated from hunting and fishing alone.

The study concludes its summary with this comment:

"The National Park System with appropriations of around \$102 million contributes at least 45 times this amount to the American people on the way of increased income—or more than 55 times the appropriations when income is stated as gross national product. Add to such amounts the indeterminable but probably large values growing out of the culture and historical contributions, as well as the stimulation of economic growth, we then see in our National Park System an asset structure few others may eclipse."

Another recent study prepared for the National Park Service is even more pertinent to the proposal before us today. This report is by Dr. William B. Beyers, *An Economic Impact Study of Mt. Rainier and Olympic National Parks*, February, 1970. These are rugged, forested areas and are probably comparable to the Big Thicket National Park in their attraction to visitors. The Big Thicket, of course, would have a much longer tourist season because of the favorable climate.

It was found that in 1968 visitors to these two parks spent \$36.2 million dollars, \$30.9 million of which was spent in Washington State. The two parks combined supported the annual equivalent of 4,800 jobs.

The study reported:

"In summary, these analyses indicated that our National Parks, which were set aside as preserves for some of our most magnificent natural environments, also are of significant importance to our economy. In this growing nation, with increased leisure, affluence, population, and mobility, these Parklands probably will have an even more important economic impact and social value in the future, if we are able to preserve those qualities of Park landscapes which today attracts

so many visitors. . . . The magnitude of the impacts measured in this study suggests that it is economically desirable to be *sure* that we preserve our National Parklands for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations."

A recent study of Deep East Texas commented on the economy of the area. "The Deep East Texas Area, being mostly rural in nature, has not received much economic benefit from the tremendous economic growth the state has experienced since World War II. Actually, this area has experienced a decline due to the vast migration of workers to the metropolitan areas."

The study also stated at page 16 :

"Population in the Deep East Texas area will remain stable as long as there are the same number of jobs for people to gain their subsistence from. No community can grow without additional demands for employment. This area is beautiful, peaceful and a very enjoyable place to live, to work, to rear a family and to achieve educational, cultural and social satisfaction. However, until such time as there are more jobs made available in the area, there will be no population increase."

Deep East Texas Development Council, *Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan*, 1970.

Rather than injuring the economy of the area, based upon these studies, it is clear that having a national park in the area would give it a much needed boost, and would help in the development of a broader and stronger economic base rather than one founded primarily on lumbering.

Studies conducted for the National Park Service show that National Parks are a tremendously valuable asset in economic terms alone, aside from their esthetic and social values. Any argument that a 100,000 acre park will injure the economy is refuted by these facts.

This is a very modest proposal and the 100,000 acre figure must be seen in proper perspective. This represents only 3.3 percent of the acreage of those counties affected.

The Big Thicket National Park has obtained tremendous support from many individuals and organizations.

The Big Thicket is a valuable and unique national treasure. The time to act to save it is here. Establishing this park is a very sound investment in our future and in the quality of life for future generations.

Mr. Chairman, the creation of the Big Thicket National Park is not primarily to benefit the plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, flowers and other wild living things there: the park is for people, for people's lives to be enriched by the wild things they thrill to see, hear, smell, and sometimes taste and touch. The issue over this park is pulpwood versus the people. The issue is not taxes or profits, because if we create this park there will be more taxes, from the surrounding business that will grow up to support the steady tourist trade, than from an occasional crop of pulpwood, and there will be far more total profit for far more people who serve the coming tide of tourism, than the total profits of the few who must wait for years to harvest a crop of pulpwood. This park will provide a new crop of tourists each year, without damage to the area, instead of having to wait 10 years for each crop of pulpwood.

If we decrease the motivation for creation of the park to a cold dollar and cents taxes and profits proposition, there are more taxes and profits for the counties involved in the creation of a National Park than in being condemned to a virtual no-growth pulpwood economy. It is pulpwood against the people and the things people have, and right and justice demand that the people win.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Senator Yarborough. It is a splendid statement and it will be incorporated in the record. [Applause.]

I share the enthusiasm for the vigorous way Senator Yarborough made that statement. But we want to keep them under control, and it is a splendid statement and will be incorporated in full in the record.

Our next witness is that of your Governor, Gov. Preston Smith of Texas, or his representative. I do not know whether a representative of the Governor is here this morning or not; if not, his statement will be incorporated in full in the record as though given.

(The statement by Governor Preston Bush was not supplied in time to be included in the record.)

Senator BIBLE. Our next listed witness is Congressman Robert C. Eckhardt of Houston, Tex.

Mr. Congressman, we are delighted to have your testimony.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, may I say Congressman Eckhardt is one of the best known conservationists in Texas. He works at it and he does not limit his interest to his own district, he has worked all over the State and Nation for conservation. He has an enviable record.

Senator BIBLE. We are happy to have you, Mr. Eckhardt.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT C. ECKHARDT, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. ECKHARDT. Mr. Chairman, Senator Yarborough, and Senator Bible, I certainly appreciate that coming from Senator Yarborough because there is no name more connected with conservation in Texas than the Senator's, of course.

His first triumph, which was the Padre Island area, bespeaks his interest in the field and this, I think, is a fine program that he has advocated with respect to the Big Thicket National Park.

First, let me point out to anyone who is unfamiliar with the Big Thicket, and I am sure there are many here who are much more familiar than I am, some of its attractions and some of its perils which this ecologically important area is facing.

Originally, this area embraced about 3½ million acres extending northward nearly to Shreveport and southward nearly to Houston and, of course, there are still tongues of forest, as are indicated by the map, that embrace a considerable amount of this original area.

Of course, it was originally a very wild place, the haunt of the Indians who came from as far away as Colorado and New Mexico to hunt its plentiful game, later the Spanish came in to its deep shadowed areas as evidenced by their old camping sites on the banks of Menard Creek, and it is reported they buried treasure there, which has been sought for ever since without too much success, I understand.

This lushly-vegetated area varied from the pine-covered hills and bass-laden creeks in the north to cane brakes, cypress swamps and palmetto jungles in the south. Within its dim recesses lurked the cougar, black bear, squatters, Indians and escaped prisoners. It is still believed to be the habitat of an endangered species, the ivory-billed woodpecker and the nesting grounds of a long list of water birds. At least 21 species of orchids grow in this area, and four species of carnivorous plants, which are four out of the total five in the United States.

I will not go further into its beauty and its value because I know many here will testify to that point. But I would like to include as a part of my presentation a copy of the Texas Observer dated September 15, 1967, which does an outstanding job of extolling its beauty and some of the dangers confronting it.

With the committee's permission, I should like to supply it.

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, it will be received.

(The article referred to was not supplied in time to be included in the record.)

Mr. ECKHARDT. But at this point I would like to present some testimony, that done much less effectively than it could have been done, if I may, somewhat in behalf of an old friend of the Big Thicket, and that was Lance Rosier, who was known as "Mr. Big Thicket." For years before he died last spring, Lance warned repeatedly of the devastation and destruction which is being wielded against the Big Thicket. For instance, instead of the once vast $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, now there is left only about 300,000 acres, and within this area, only isolated pockets of untouched wilderness can be found.

Mr. Justice Douglas, in his "Farewell to Texas" warns that the Thicket is being depleted right now at about the rate of 50 acres a day. No wonder that an East Texas lumber company executive was heard to snap recently: "The Big Thicket? The way we're going, in 4 years there won't be any Big Thicket."

I would like to mention a few of the things that Lance Rosier found had occurred in recent years in the Thicket, just to show how important it is that something be done now to preserve a wide area, the 100,000 acre area that Senator Yarborough has mentioned.

In one case, a heron rookery was sprayed with insecticides from an airplane. When Lance explored the area the next day, he found more than 200 dead water birds in an area of less than two acres. Even more recent than that event was that of discovering dead water birds and discarded shotgun shells in an isolated woodland pond. A Wall Street Journal reporter who was with Lance asked him if this was the common thing. Lance replied that it was another example of people trying to destroy the Thicket through destroying the species of wildlife it was protecting.

There are other instances. Hardwood trees, like Senator Yarborough was mentioning, used for pulpwood, and for railroad ties are being cut down ruthlessly. Magnolias have been chopped down to produce railroad ties at 40 cents per tie, and a hundred-year-old magnolia tree is thus worth about \$3.50 on that basis.

There is one instance where one of the oldest, possibly the oldest of the magnolia species of tree, estimated to be around 1,000 years old, was drilled in nine places and poisoned with arsenic or lead so that this area would be less valuable for park use.

Here I would like to recount a personal experience. While returning from a Big Thicket Association meeting on the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation in mid-1966, I stopped at a sawmill between Livingston and Cleveland to inquire about buying some lumber. I wanted to find some cypress for some fence rails, and I noticed a pile of lumber very high, 20 or 30 feet high, and I asked the sawmill attendant what this was, asked him about cypress, of course, and he said it is pecan, pecan lumber and I said, "What is it to be used for?" For the corduroy roads that go to oil drilling rigs. Pecan lumber for that purpose! Pecan is, as you know, a species of the same family as hickory, a very, very fine wood for many purposes, and of course also the trees themselves are extremely valuable trees. But here were pecan trees being felled for such a lowly purpose.

Maybe I am wrong, but I cannot help but wonder if there isn't a well-organized scheme afoot to destroy the esthetic value of the Big Thicket.

Of course, there would be no point in trying to save it. I wonder if there aren't well planned programs to destroy the hardwood—hickory, pecan and beech—and supplant them with fast-growing pines for money-hungry lumber barons resembling those which a noted conservationist, Gifford Pinchot fought so many years ago. When the hardwoods, with their plentiful production of mast, are gone, so will the wildlife be gone, too, the birds, squirrels, wild turkey and majestic whitetail deer. I can hardly imagine anything more sterile than mile after mile of pine with not a hardwood sapling left standing.

So much for the Thicket, its esthetic value and the dangers it is facing. Now, I would like to talk for a few moments as to another reason I am supporting such a national park.

Of course, I represent the Eighth District in Harris County. Though it does not include any of the Thicket, the place I live, my district, is not greatly different from the Thicket. It is a place that creates an interest and love for the outdoors, and for the type of east Texas outdoors that the Big Thicket represents.

We are an area with a large population that needs outdoors. It needs that same esthetic and that invigorating experience of returning to nature, and the Big Thicket would be extremely important to areas like Houston, Beaumont, all the cities around in this area. Other areas which might be designated as wildlife areas are equally accessible to residents of the Eighth Congressional District as they are to the persons of east Texas. In these days of growing tension and confrontation it becomes ever more necessary that citizens have a place to which they can go and relax.

Most of my constituents are in moderate- or low-income bracket. I have had a great interest in Galveston Bay which I have called the poor man's country club. This is very much the same situation with the Big Thicket. It is available for people who cannot afford to belong to an expensive golf club.

Now, as far as the size of the Big Thicket National Park is concerned, I would like to state for the record that I support as large an area as can be acquired.

I do not believe that the 35,000 acre "String of Pearls" is large enough, since this will simply protect several ecologically important areas. There are many, many other areas which should be protected, some of which could be opened up to other uses, such as canoeing along the rivers and for hiking between the various parks called the "Pearls."

It seems to me that the concept which the Sierra Club has designed is a good one, though a great deal of study should be made of it.

I realize that this proposal appears to be a huge area, but it does not mean that all of the regions should or would be purchased outright. The "String of Pearls" certainly should be purchased by the Federal Government so that their valuable ecological flora and fauna could be preserved. But corridors between these regions and other portions such as the wildlife areas could be opened to the public on an easement basis or the Federal Government could purchase these areas from the lumber companies with such companies retaining the timber rights. This way the lumber companies would still retain the right to cut timber, but under recognized controls.

The Federal Government could carry out a timber management program and protect these areas, and the timber companies would reap the benefit of cutting.

It seems to me that the lumber companies would have much to gain from such a proposal, because actually, of course, today it is not the lumber companies that are perhaps even the greatest threat to the Thicket. It is the development of subdivisions that bulldoze down the trees. It is the use of the lumber for pulpwood, it is the many pressures of a growing populous area around a beautiful natural bounty.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to the late Lance Rosier, a little man whose heart was as big as the original Big Thicket. When the Big Thicket National Park, or Monument, is finally realized, I would like to suggest that one of these parks be named the Lance Rosier Scenic Park. I cannot think of a single thing that Lance would be prouder of, for this was his dream, to preserve part of his beloved Big Thicket for all of the generations of Americans to come.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee.

Senator BIBLE. Congressman, we are delighted to have you with us this morning. It is a very effective statement and I appreciate it very greatly.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Supplementing the Congressman's statement, in one of my visits to the Big Thicket area, I believe it was 1966, I drove down a dirt road, a County Road, where you could see magnolias lying alongside the road which had been cut a long time before. They had not been utilizing them, and the trees were just lying there and rotting. The conclusion was inescapable that somebody was trying to destroy the esthetic value so that it would no longer be beautiful or useful as a park.

I think Justice Douglas came the next year, and his attention was called to it and it was mentioned in his book. The terrible thing about it was that those magnolias were not being utilized for anything, they had just cut them down, and let the whole tree lie there and rot.

Of course, you could not see very far into the forest but as far as you could see on each side they were lying there. That is the kind of spoilation that is being done and it is destroying this great area.

Senator BIBLE. Our next listed witness is the Honorable Robert Armstrong, Democratic nominee, Land Commissioner, Austin, Tex.

Our next witness is Mr. Orrin H. Bonney, Houston, Tex., chairman, Big Thicket Coordinating Committee.

STATEMENT OF ORRIN H. BONNEY, CHAIRMAN, BIG THICKET COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. BONNEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Senators, representatives of the Park Service. I am representing the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, and we will present statements from both of them.

Senator BIBLE. I want to say this: You are a fellow lawyer, as I am, that many of these statements are very long, and they will be incorporated in full in the record. In the interest of time I think as we move along here, I do not want to cut anybody short on time, but there are so many of the same things that will be said, I think, I have had 14 years now in handling park problems and area problems and there is always cumulative evidence, I guess, as we say in the courtroom, so any time you ask for incorporation of your statement in full, that will be done.

I have also learned that, after many years of practicing law and serving as the chairman of parks, that when I ask somebody to highlight it, I usually make a very strategic error because it usually takes them longer to highlight than to read the whole statement. When I say highlight, I do not mean the longer light, but the shorter light.

You are the chairman of the Big Thicket Coordinating Committee. You are a fine lawyer and as one lawyer to another, we will try to have brief briefs as we go along.

Mr. BONNEY. I would like this statement, of the Wilderness Society incorporated in the record.

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, that will be the order, Mr. Bonney.

Mr. BONNEY. Then I will have a few comments of my own I would like to make.

Senator BIBLE. Certainly.

Mr. BONNEY. I would like to reiterate what Senator Yarborough said, there has been a deliberate attempt out there to destroy the thicket for no other purpose than to destroy it and to make it so that we could not establish it as a park, and I have seen that myself.

With our large population, Senators, and with our growing population, there is a continued demand for green space and it is fast disappearing, and I think practically everyone agrees that we should have some of our natural environment preserved, and so that present and future generations can enjoy it and study it, and that they can learn that there is real wealth in living, growing things, which the Creator has provided for us.

What better place is there to select and preserve some of our natural environment than right here in the Big Thicket. The Big Thicket is called the biological crossroads of North America. It is unparalleled in its richness and diversity of its plant life. Its 60-inch annual rainfall and gulf climate make the thicket a lapping-over point of subtropical and temperate vegetation, found nowhere else in the United States.

The National Park Service study team of 1967 stated, in fact: "The scientific and recreational values of the Big Thicket are so outstanding in quality and importance, and their threatened loss to the Nation so grave, that their preservation by the Federal Government for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of all people is imperative.

The study team also stated that "the forest contains elements common to the Florida Everglades, the Okefenokee Swamp, the Appalachian region, the Piedmont forests, and the open woodlands of the coastal plains." Large areas resemble tropical jungles in the Mexican states of Tamaulipas and Vera Cruz.

Big Thicket's ecologic complex encompasses eight plant communities—upland, savannah, beech-magnolia, baygall, palmetto-baldcypress-hardwood, bog, streambank, and flood-plain forest—with intermediate graduations.

Senator Yarborough has already elaborated on some of the unique and particular features of this, and I won't repeat them at this time.

But they are all there, and all very important.

Another thing I would like to bring out, what is so important about keeping some areas of our country in their natural state other than just to seem them and observe them?

What can we learn about the processes of pure nature than its advantages if we interfere with it and destroy them?

I notice in the room behind me here several representatives of the timber industry, and let me say that timber, the timber industry has done a big thing in this part of the country. Five or six companies own and tree farm some 3 million acres and they control most, practically all, of some of these counties, Hardin County about 85 percent of the lands is industry owned, and the county is struggling along on that sort of economy.

But let me ask this, let me ask the timber men who are here: What would be the most valuable tract of timber land if they could find it? It would be virgin timber, timber that had never felt the handwork of man, and what were the great stands of timber in the United States and particularly in east Texas counties, all virgin timber, the timber that nature produced and what can we learn from virgin timber, what can we learn, what did virgin timber do that man cannot do, and has never been able to do in this country in 350 years since the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock? Man has never produced a stand of timber that the lumber men call a virgin timber. What is important, that we leave some of this land to see what nature is doing and learn some lessons from nature.

I have learned a few lessons myself. I do not know too much about it. I own a couple of hundred acres up here in Montgomery County of Texas, that were once a part of the Big Thicket. One year I set out there in the clearings some 10,000 pine trees. Then later on I found—a Texas State forester said, "Go out and ring your hardwoods so that the pines can take over and you will have an economic crop." Well, I didn't get around to it, and didn't think too much of it in the first place. But anyway, I did not do it. A few years later I discovered that my oak trees were full of squirrels and they were eating acorns and were living there, but they were also scrambling up the pine trees and throwing down the pine cones and taking the seeds out and burying them in the ground, saving them, and I found that the squirrels had planted far more pine trees and made the land far more productive of the trees and pine trees than all the Boy Scouts and labor that I could have hired to plant those trees, so that is just one lesson.

And I think we can learn many lessons from living nature—now everywhere, but in certain places like the Big Thicket which we are trying to set aside, let that land be kept in its natural state and let's learn some lessons from nature itself.

If we are going to preserve part of this biological crossroads of North America, if we are going to keep something of this great ecological complex for observance and study by future generations, we do need a plan.

We are not going to do it by a mere string of oversized roadside parks, whether you call it a string of pearls, without the strings, or by some other glamorous term.

A single year would see these small areas trampled down and litter-bugged beyond recall.

I have shown on this, we have shown on this map, and this is a U.S. Geological Survey topographical map, we have shown on here these little sections of it, in red here, which were once called the String

of Pearls, these little red streaks here. On this, the outline of this is the outline that the national park study team of 1968 determined was an environmental area of the Big Thicket, and I think it can be argued here all day long that these little tracts of land here, isolated tracts of land called the 35,000 acres, that that should be the park, we are all in accord with that, they should be that, but we need additional lands beside that.

So I think this map will answer every argument that somebody will make here, if they do make it today, that 35,000 acres should be the Big Thicket. It is not.

Senator BIBLE. I anticipate that argument, having handled many, and I don't want to repeat the number of parks I have handled, but inherent in all of them, and the Park Service people can verify this because they have been with me on so many of these hearings, many of these parks involve the problem of size, some say they should be small, some say they should be midsized and some say they can be large. I think I can sense already in just the opening statements made that is one of the problems that we will be called upon to solve here, and I do not know whether it should be a 35,000-acre park, a 75,000-acre park, a 100,000-acre park, a million-acre park or what, and your position is that it should be at least 100,000 acres; is that correct?

Mr. BONNEY. Yes.

Senator BIBLE. And if so, why?

Mr. BONNEY. Yes, sir. Let me state here—

Senator BIBLE. You might as well come down to grips with the problem. I have no doubt this is a beautiful area and has enthusiastic support. I can hear, all day, the wonders of this area. I say this with due respect for all the wonderful witnesses that you have, but admitting all of this, as our major premise then the problem that resolves upon us, as I see it, is as to what size it should be and how much is it going to cost. I think these are the important areas, and I think these are things that we ought to direct some of our attention to, particularly to you experts and somebody such as you, Mr. Bonney, who has spent so many years in moving these projects forward. This is the type of testimony as I see it, that is extremely helpful to us, and I would be very happy to have you develop that, because size does become a problem in every park we have had. Senator Yarborough knows that it was a problem in Padre Island and with Guadalupe and all over the State of Texas. It was also a problem in the Canyonlands out in Utah.

I am not unfamiliar with the lumber industry. I went through the battle of the Redwoods National Park and I know lumbermen pretty well, too, so I have been baptized under all kinds of conditions. So if we could just comment on size as you witnesses develop this, why should it be this size, the low size, middle size, the big size, whatever, and I think this is helpful to us. This is why we have the Director of the Park Service here and his very able aid, because they have to evaluate this and then they have to come up with some cost figures. We must know what this is going to cost, because it is an important consideration.

So these are the problems that worry us, when you are down meeting with the people and trying to find out what is the correct answer to the situation.

Mr. BONNEY. I think, Senator, at the present time the values that we are dealing with are somewhere probably between \$250 and \$300 per acre, and we have one witness who will be here, who is here today, and will testify, Dempsie Henley, who is a real estate man in the area and he can probably provide further information about it.

Senator BIBLE. I do not know that you qualify as an expert on value, maybe you do or maybe you don't, and we will get all kinds of estimates, but these are the things that are important to the Park Service.

Let me say this, Senator Yarborough, we have learned by sad experience that whatever we do with parks or park areas, we ought to do it rather quickly, so that we do not keep people in doubt as to where it is going to go. That bothers us. And I am familiar with developers. We went through this at Point Reyes. In fact, we just finished it, at least I hope we finished it. It started out as a \$14 million project and ended up as a \$57 million project so we do have these kinds of problems. If we do have people who can develop the value and what it would probably cost: that is it looks to you as if it would cost between \$250 and \$300 an acre, that it one statement, but you say other witnesses will testify differently. You may proceed.

Mr. BONNEY. One important point here, I think, in regard to size, is that there are no publicly owned lands within this environmental area, and it is not, for example, out in your own State of Nevada where the Taiobe National Forest is over 3 million acres in itself. But here we have no public lands. We need to set aside a sufficient amount of public lands so that it can protect even the unique specimen areas.

There is very little public land in Texas. So, and here we are close to the population center, we do need something of sufficient size.

In fact, with none of this Big Thicket, hopefully you will be able to see some of it today, but with none of this in public ownership, you are not going to see but very little of the Big Thicket today. Where it is privately owned it is now literally locked up. It is under padlock and chain and key. There is no place in this area, this entire area, where a private citizen can go and see what the Big Thicket is like. He has to go on his own.

The Texas game wardens are charged by law to arrest land trespassers and they do, and they spend more time arresting trespassers than they do supervising the game.

You will probably, today, go up here to the Indian reservation and visit on the Indian lands.

Now the Indians have always been conservation minded. They like to keep the land in its natural state, and you will see much of the country which is in the Big Thicket up in the Indian reservation, but that is one of the few places that we can take you Senators to visit because the rest of the land is all fenced in and locked up.

Like we say, these little areas will not accomplish anything except the preservation of that area, unless something surrounding it is gotten.

Now we feel that this area, this triangle here, it is about 40,000 acres, what is called the Saratoga-Kountze Sour Lake Triangle, that has been the traditional part of the Big Thicket, what the natives feel is representative of the whole thing, it is large enough so that wildlife could be restored there and could become an important part. There is

very little habitation within that area so it is still in its natural state and can be set aside.

You see the white areas where there has been cultivation and that sort of thing, the rest, the green area, of course, on the top of the map are the forests.

Here is another important—

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, may I request that at this point this map be introduced in the record.

Senator BIBLE. Yes; we will be very happy to have it.

Mr. BONNEY. We would like it introduced and go with the record.

Senator YARBOROUGH. So what Mr. Bonney is testifying to will be identified as exhibit 1.

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, the map will be made a part of the record for reference by the committee and will be known as exhibit 1.

You may proceed.

(The map referred to is in the Committee files.)

Mr. BONNEY. Now, here we have also shown the Neches River Flood Plain. Now there is very little habitation of any kind in here. We are not involved with that. We are involved in all of the Big Thicket, in acquiring all of the land because it is privately owned. The Neches bottom, the flood plain itself, has not been much of a great economic use and it is very much in its natural state today.

It is large enough so that wildlife and birds and all sorts of things, everything in nature, can be kept and preserved there. It is wild enough, and we hopefully today will be able to take you on it and let you see some of this Neches River so that you can see what it is like along the banks.

The waters themselves, the waters in Texas, the navigable waters belong to the State of Texas and the streambed does but you cannot get out legally on any of the banks of this—

Senator BIBLE. I understand your point.

The Neches River to—and if this is set aside, it will not have any great—its lands that can be taken with less impact than any other land is the Neches bottom there, and it will give us a substantial area. It can be provided there, that the upper stretches of this can be left in its wild state, canoeists can come down, we can keep motorists off of it and can keep the land just as it has always been and hopefully as you can see it today. So that is an area that we feel can be added to these specimen areas. It will preserve the specimen areas as well as the rest of it.

Senator BIBLE. I want to say you have taken about 40 minutes already. If we are going to finish—I want to accommodate every witness I can and there is no way I can accommodate 40 witnesses unless I can hold it down to 10 minutes apiece.

Mr. BONNEY. I would like to show the plan because others will be talking about it.

Senator BIBLE. All right, if we do not speed it up, we won't finish in a week.

Mr. BONNEY. We also advocated, and this is also in the park study of 1968—the park study is nothing official of the Park Service. That is merely they sent out a study team.

Senator BIBLE. I understand.

Mr. BONNEY. So we are not trying to say it is a park recommendation or anything. They have not made any recommendation but have made a study of it.

Now, then, many people like to drive out in their automobile and get out of the car and see things and that sort of thing. So both in the park study recommendation and in the conservation organization we have recommended a corridor be maintained along all of the roads so that people can drive along, see the thicket, feel they have had that experience of seeing it. It will not be crowded out with hotdog stands and neon signs and all that sort of thing which would destroy the whole effect of everything there. So we feel that these corridors should be acquired and reserved, either as easements or in fee.

As a lawyer, I found very little difference in the experience of acquiring a fee and an easement but it does not matter as long as that is protected.

All of these streams which are outlined here should also have a corridor along them. That can be done under the same provision that Congress has already passed, the Scenic Rivers Act, and that sort of thing, and it can be preserved there.

The entire environmental area could, as Congressman Eckhardt suggested, that could be conveyed, much of this area could be conveyed, to the Federal Government and managed by the Forest Service under good management, timber management, practices with grazing and hunting and everything permitted there.

They would save on the taxes. They have got a constitutional amendment, the timber industry right now, has before Texas to try to limit their taxes because of subdivisions in there they pay, the values go up to \$2,000 and they cannot raise timber on a \$2,000 an acre property, but they could convey this to the Government, keep the timber rights, the same as many times mineral rights are retained in Texas, and when the timber is ready to be cut, why, they would have the right to cut it.

They would not have to be paying taxes on all that in the meantime.

The communities themselves would benefit from it by, just what has been stated by, Senator Yarborough here, because the economics of it increase, they do not decrease when somebody does that.

So I think that should be part of the bill, too, when the committee considers it and puts it in its final draft, that property owners could be permitted to convey this property to the Government and retain timber rights, not in these unique areas, not in the areas set aside for wildlife and all but in the general areas so that eventually we would have the forest there which is desirable from many standpoints, not only economic but from having something here.

I think without taking up any more time that gives some of the ideas that we have here, Senator, and we certainly do appreciate your coming down here, and I certainly thank you for having us out here.

Senator BIBLE. I think it is a very fine general statement and I think it was proper that you have, as chairman of the Big Thicket Coordinating Committee, that you have additional time and I do appreciate it.

Senator Yarborough would like to ask you one question.

Senator YARBOROUGH. One question. What is the acreage of the Neches River Flood Plain that is shown on your map, exhibit 1, with

horizontal cross bars on the right hand side of the map or the eastern side?

Mr. BONNEY. I would only have to guess at that, Senator. I would guess about 60,000 acres.

Senator YARBOROUGH. About 60,000?

Mr. BONNEY. Yes.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That is largely now free of homes. It is not being farmed now for timber or crops or anything, is it?

Mr. BONNEY. Not in general, no. It is fairly wild in there.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That is where you find more wild plants, I think.

Mr. BONNEY. That is where the ivory-billed woodpecker is.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That park is 60,000 acres right there that you show?

Mr. BONNEY. Yes, and there would be probably another 40,000 here and then these roads would take up some more and these little areas here which should be reserved which are unique and natural.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, from years of work on this I think that has been a very valuable contribution Mr. Bonney has made.

Senator BIBLE. We very much appreciate having you.

Thank you, Mr. Bonney.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Bonney and the Wilderness Society follow:)

STATEMENT OF ORRIN H. BONNEY, CHAIRMAN, BIG THICKET COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

My name is Orrin H. Bonney (625 East 14th Street, Houston, Texas, 77008). At this hearing I am representing the national organizations of the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society. I am also Chairman of the Big Thicket Coordinating Committee. In addition to my own comments, I would like to file statement of the Wilderness Society and have it made part of the record of these proceedings.

Practically everyone agrees that we should select for preservation some of the heritage of our natural environment for present and future generations to enjoy, to study, and to learn the wealth in living, growing things the Creator has provided for us.

What better place to select and preserve it than here at the Big Thicket, the biological crossroads of North America.

Big Thicket is unparalleled in the richness and diversity of its plant life. Its 60-inch annual rainfall and gulf climate make the Thicket a lapping-over point of subtropical and temperate vegetation, found nowhere else in the United States. The National Park Service study team of 1967 stated, in fact, "The scientific and recreational values of the Big Thicket are so outstanding in quality and importance, and their threatened loss to the Nation so grave, that their preservation by the Federal Government for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of all people is imperative."

The study team also stated that "the forest contains elements common to the Florida Everglades, the Okefenokee Swamp, the Appalachian region, the Piedmont forests, and the open woodlands of the coastal plains." Large areas resemble tropical jungles in the Mexican states of Tamaulipas and Vera Cruz. Big Thicket's ecologic complex encompasses eight plant communities—upland, savannah, beech-magnolia, baygall, palmetto-baldcypress-hardwood, bog, streambank, and flood plain forest—with intermediate graduations.

Several species of trees have reached their finest development in Big Thicket, and champion-sized trees continue to be discovered. At least 21 varieties of wild orchids and 25 ferns grow in the area, and four of America's five insect-eating plants. It is a matchless area for the study of fungi, mosses, and algae, and would doubtless disclose many species that hitherto have been unclassified.

At least 300 bird species make Big Thicket their home, year-round; countless migratory birds visit the area, which lies on the dividing line between the great flyway of the Mississippi Valley and the migration route that curves along the gulf coast.

The ivory-billed woodpecker, gaudily plumed and larger than a crow, ranged through southern forests in the past. With the gradual passing of vast, virgin hardwood stands that were its home, this regal bird was thought to be extinct. But a number of ivory-bills have been observed in the Neches River bottomlands and along Pine Island Bayou. Preservation of these areas would be justified on this basis alone.

Hunters have roved Big Thicket since Indians paddled across the waters of the "Big Woods," as they called it, in search of once-abundant game. Poaching and hunting out of season are still a way of life here. Bear and panther are rarely seen now, but smaller game animals are well represented. Reptiles and amphibians—ranging in size from alligators to tiny worm snakes—add to the interest of the region.

What is so important about keeping some areas of our country in their natural state? What can we learn about the processes of pure nature and its advantages if we interfere with it.

I notice several representatives of the timber industry here. Let me say that the timber industry has done a big thing in this part of the country—five or six companies own and tree farmed some three million acres in most of some of these counties.

Let me ask you gentlemen of the timber industry—what would be the most valuable tract of timber land if you could find it. Virgin timber. Timber that has never felt the handwork of man. And what were the great stands of timber in the United States, and in particular in these East Texas counties—all virgin timber—the timber that nature produced. In the entire 350 years since the Europeans landed at Plymouth Rock man has not developed a stand equal to the virgin timber, and even old second growth is probably better than we can grow by artificial means. I can't give you all the answers as to why this is so and I don't think anyone here in this room can do it, but somewhere nature has the answers, and some areas have to be left alone for nature to give the answers.

I own 200 acres of East Texas forest land in Montgomery County similar to these lands we are advocating for the Big Thicket and which were once a part of it. I have had a home on these lands for over thirty years and live there about a third of my time. One year I obtained ten thousand pines from the Texas State Forest and set them out in a few clearings in my forest. The labor was costly. The state forester wanted me to ring my ancient hardwoods so that they would die (as you see has been done to many of the hardwoods around here) and "so that the more merchantable pines would take over." But I didn't do it—maybe I just didn't get around to it. Then I discovered that my oak trees were loaded with squirrels coming there to eat and live off the acorns. But I also noted they were racing up the pine trees and tossing down the cones and tearing the cones apart to get the small seeds which they instinctively buried for future food supply. Well, I soon found that the squirrels were planting more pine trees than all the labor and boy scout troops I had hired. This is an example of one little thing which was learned from undisturbed nature. But what does the landowner learn from dead hardwoods, squirrels gone, and scraggly seedlings dying in the dry heat their second summer.

But if we are to preserve part of this biological crossroads of North America—if we are to keep something of this great ecological complex for observance and study by future generations, we must have a plan. And you will not do it with a mere string of oversized roadside parks, whether you call it a string of pearls (without the string) or by some other glamorous term. A single year would see these small areas trampled down and litterbugged beyond recall.

There are no publicly owned lands in the Big Thicket except its stream beds and the highways which pass through it. There is very little public land in Texas, considering its size. Texas is not like the Western States with their national forests national parks and BLM lands—for example Yellowstone and the surrounding protected wildernesses comprising some 6,600 square miles. Texas public lands are gone—the Federal Government never owned them; the state used them to finance the early days of the republic, traded ten counties for her state capitol building; gave homesteads to her soldiers and citizens, and financed her schools and colleges, leaving nothing for the present generation.

With none of Big Thicket in public ownership, Senators, you are not going to see much of its greatness on your tour later today. The Big Thicket is privately owned and it is literally locked up, under padlock and chain and key. There is no place in it a private citizen can go on his own. The Texas game wardens are charged by law to arrest land trespassers, and they do, and they spend more time on this than they do on enforcing game laws.

In an effort to show you what the country is like, you will visit on lands belonging to the Indians and will be shown the kindness and hospitality of these people, and will see how this naturally conservation minded race has kept their backwoods as we desire to keep a Big Thicket Park. You will travel on the public waters and will see the beauty which could be retained along these stream banks if the public will own these corridors. Legally you cannot land on the stream banks except at the highway crossings. A helicopter will carry you over, not through, some of the lands where only your senatorial immunity would protect you from arrest if you traveled on the land itself, and you will be a welcome guest on the land of one or more of our generous hosts.

But I ask you, should not some of this be in public ownership and the public have some opportunity to enjoy a small part of it? And should it not be available in public ownership for students and universities and scientists to study?

1. Everyone agrees, and I doubt that you will find a single person here voicing opposition, that unique specimen areas of the Big Thicket should be selected and preserved in their natural and untouched state, and I think everyone pro and con have fairly well agreed that those areas selected by the National Park Service study team in their latest effort are such areas. Some variation probably will occur in the final acquisition and establishment. These areas give the public an opportunity to observe and the scientists to study the ecological process of nature in the area.

2. For wildlife, areas of sufficient size and forest cover should be set aside for restoration, habitat, and protection. Not only would this enable a species such as the rare ivory billed woodpecker to survive but ultimately it would provide a reservoir of abundant game which would help stock outlying hunting territory. Then it won't be necessary for hunting clubs to ship in deer and turn them loose so that their members will have something to hunt. Ideal for this would be the Neches Flood-Plain and the Saratoga-Kountze-Sour Lake Triangle. (Actually, the natives regard this triangle as the traditional Big Thicket.)

3. The National Park Service study team in 1968 recommended an environmental zone. Here a large area could be established for timber management, grazing, hunting, and multiple use under concepts similar to the U.S. Forest Service. Conflicting uses and conflicting developments could be prohibited. Management of the forests of East Texas are important, not only to Texas, but to the nation. The forest industry of East Texas cannot survive encroachments of subdivisions, weekend homes, the construction of concrete canals and the drainage of woodlands and the flood controls that follow in the wake of subdivision encroachments.

And let me here make a suggestion to Congress and to the forest industry about the economics of timber management in this section. When a subdivision goes up and the subdividers sell their lands anywhere up to two thousand dollars an acre, the timber companies owning adjoining lands must argue with the tax assessor whether their adjoining timber lands also should not be put on the tax rolls at a like value. The timber industry cannot maintain and manage timber resources on the basis of such tax values.

There is a constitutional amendment which will be submitted to the voters of Texas next fall in an attempt to limit valuations on agriculture and timber lands. Its passage is doubtful. But these timber lands and environment areas could be conveyed to the Federal Government to be managed as timber lands. The timber industry could retain all of the timber rights to such lands the same as minerals are reserved on many lands sold in Texas, and would have the right to harvest such timber under proper management practices. With the public holding title to the land it would take the burden of ad valorem taxes off of the timber industry. They would have to pay taxes only on the timber rights, not on the land itself. The public could pay for the land which it acquires and I am sure the timber industry would be willing to sell it at a very nominal price if they could get out of the burden of taxes and still retain the timber rights. This could be done for vast areas of the environmental zone and a great deal of land could be thus

acquired for the public much the same as the inholdings in national parks are now being acquired with the owner-occupant retaining some limited rights. It would relieve the timber industry of much policing and protection expense.

I believe that when the present bill S. 4 is drafted into final form and comes out of this Committee it should contain a provision permitting this sort of arrangement which would be a separate provision from those provisions concerning the unique specimen areas which are to be retained in their natural state. It would lead to the establishment of a great and valuable area of forest under proper and perpetual management in these East Texas counties.

Another part of any plan should include a wide corridor on both sides of all the rivers and streams in the environmental zone under those concepts which have already been enacted in Congress (under the Scenic Rivers and similar acts). These wide corridors along the flood plains of the streams and which have low economic value could be acquired at a minimum cost and preserved in their natural beauty, accessible to motorless boats, and with primitive camping along the banks available.

The Neches River corridor should encompass its entire floodplain through the environmental zone, roughly from Dam B Reservoir to the south boundary of the Beaumont Unit. This will also provide for most of the people who desire a true wilderness experience.

There are many people who like to see the natural wonders of this country by touring along in their automobiles, stopping occasionally and stepping out along the roadside. We should not overlook these people. The highways within the Big Thicket Environmental Zone should be bordered with deep corridors of natural forest, preferably a half mile wide, bringing the Big Thicket environment up to the road instead of the inevitable hotdog stands, bill boards, and neon signs that are bound to develop if the corridor isn't considered. This corridor will prove to be one of Texas greatest tourist attractions, especially with the flowering trees of spring and the autumn colors.

I do not recommend camping and recreational facilities within the Environmental Zone otherwise problems such as some of our other national parks are suffering will become established here. And, too, this will mean that we will not keep coming back to Congress to establish and maintain such facilities. The map which we have included on the back of our brochure (see attachment) shows the large recreational areas which lie immediately outside the environmental zone. North is the Martin Dies State Park at Dam B. There are the Toledo Bend and Sam Rayburn Reservoirs, and northwest is Lake Livingston Reservoir, all with their water oriented recreational facilities such as motor boating, water skiing, picnicking and camping. There are also the lands of three national forests—the Sabine, Angeline, and Sam Houston—with their multiple use and camping facilities.

(And Senators, by the way, when you see an outline of these national forests on any of the maps of Texas, do not assume that they are all public lands within the forest boundary. In fact, more than half of the lands within those forest boundaries are privately owned, the private lands irregularly checker-boarded among the public pieces of land.)

I would like to see a package legislation providing for each of the great federal agencies contributing some part to the Big Thicket preservation. I would like to see the Corps of Engineers forget about their dams and flood control and drainage in this water-dependent Big Thicket country, and for once study the effect of a river flowing undisturbed in its natural state. The Corps could continue to manage the recreational and economic aspects of Toledo Bend, Sam Rayburn and Dam B reservoirs.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be ideal to manage the wildlife areas and assist in the restoration of Big Thicket wildlife.

The U.S. Forest Service could provide management for multiple use of the areas in which timber rights were retained and can manage the recreational facilities on Forest Service land around the reservoirs.

The National Park Service could provide supervision and interpretive centers for those areas set aside in their natural state because of their unique values, and could provide for the natural corridors.

The citizens of Texas who have studied the Big Thicket and its values believe that such an overall plan provided by legislation is desirable. I think you will do well to provide for it.

STATEMENT OF STEWART M. BRANDBOG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

On June 12 the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation will conduct field hearings in Beaumont, Texas, on S. 4, Senator Ralph Yarborough's bill to establish a Big Thicket National Park of at least 100,000 acres in East Texas.

These hearings will give conservationists an opportunity to express their views on the proposal, by personal testimony or in letters for the hearing record.

BIG THICKET IS A BIOLOGICAL CROSSROADS

Once the Big Thicket stretched over 3.5 million acres. The luxuriant forest has been well described as the "biological crossroads of North America." Here species from the Appalachians, the coastal plains, open woodlands, and the everglades reach the limits of their ranges, overlapping in unique proximity.

Sixty inches of rain a year and the gulf climate result in an extraordinary richness and diversity of plant life. Here eight plant communities are found: upland, savanna, beech-magnolia, boygall, palmetto-bald cypress-hardwood, bog, streambank, and flood-plain forest. Numerous champion-sized trees have been located (and many harvested!) competing for attention with 21 varieties of wild orchids and fascinating insectivorous plants.

The area also is rich in bird life. Three years ago even an ivory-billed woodpecker, the spectacular crow-size, crested species once found in virgin forest over much of the south but lately feared extinct, was reported to have been seen in the Big Thicket. The ivory-bill may be making its last stand in the few hundred thousand surviving acres of the thicket's once vast mature forest.

Logging, clearing, and agriculture are rapidly shrinking even the remnant of this forest—at a rate of perhaps 50 acres a day. The purpose of the proposed national park is to preserve and protect a sample of this distinctive segment of America's past. Conserving the area's ecological integrity is the vital need. But appropriate provision in the park plans can also be made for public education and enjoyment.

CITIZENS ADVOCATE AN UNUSUAL PARK WEB

Senator Yarborough first introduced legislation to save some of the Big Thicket in 1966. Studies by the National Park Service and by regional conservation leaders have resulted in revision and refinement to achieve a workable plan that can preserve the area.

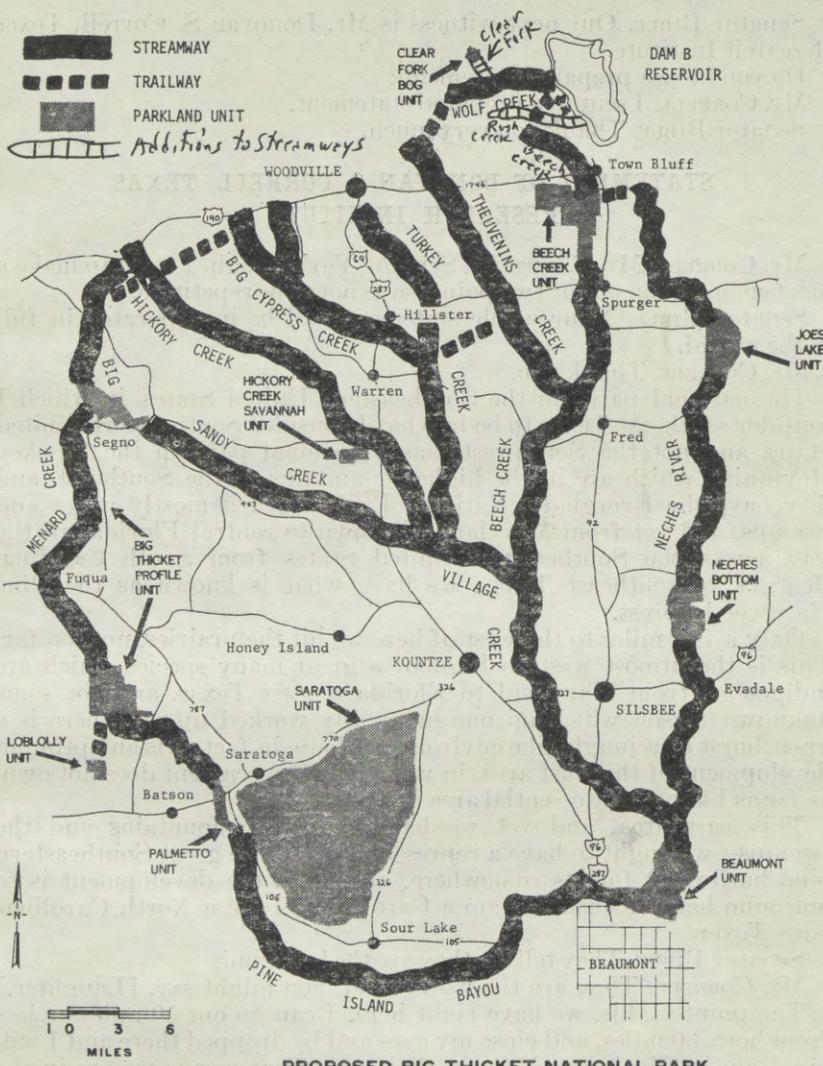
The citizens' proposal for the Big Thicket National Park, as endorsed by 60 interested organizations in Texas and elsewhere, is an unusual one, based on the web formed by the Neches River and tributary streams flowing through the Big Thicket country. The proposal envisions a park area varying from one to two miles wide extending along each of the streams, together with additional areas (including one of 64,000 acres) which would connect the several streamways. There would be a physical and esthetic unity to the plan. A minimum of 100,000 acres is proposed for the park.

Existing communities scattered within the Big Thicket, established public roads, and heavy recent logging preclude the possibility of a single, large, continuous area for the park. However, the creeks and the Neches River, the marshes with their luxuriant plant growth, and the strands of mature forest remaining on the uplands in combination offer an opportunity to establish an unusual national park area of high quality.

PARK PATTERN PROMISES SUITABLE ACCESS

Float trips down the placid streams and foot and horse expeditions on trails wandering along the banks and through the wooded countryside will provide the most satisfying means of enjoying this natural wonderland. With the dispersed pattern of the proposed park, automobile access will be convenient at many points without direct intrusion on the waterways and forest lands.

The accompanying map shows the pattern conservationists propose for the park—broad, protected waterways, connecting trailways, and woodland reserves of varying sizes, all joined by the flowing waters.



PROPOSED BIG THICKET NATIONAL PARK

HOW TO HELP CREATE BIG THICKET NATIONAL PARK

Friday, June 12, is the date of the public hearing at Court Room 1, U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Beaumont, Texas, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please plan to attend if at all possible and tell the members of the Senate committee who will be present how you feel about protecting some of the Big Thicket as it is today by placing it in the national park system.

If you cannot attend, write a letter to *Senator Alan Bible, Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Room 3106, New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*, expressing your views on having a Big Thicket National Park. The hearing record will be kept open for letters until June 22. The response at this hearing will significantly influence what the Senate committee decides about the Big Thicket National Park proposal. Let your opinion count—by testifying in person or by letter!

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Mr. Donovan S. Correll, Texas Research Institute.

Do you have a prepared statement?

Mr. CORRELL. I sent in a prepared statement.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

**STATEMENT OF DONOVAN S. CORRELL, TEXAS
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Mr. CORRELL. Mr. Chairman, Senator Yarborough, I want to make a brief comment on one or two points so as not to be repetitive.

Senator BIBLE. Your whole statement will be incorporated in full in the record.

Mr. CORRELL. Thank you.

The national parks in the Southeastern United States, in which I consider southeast Texas to be in what I consider Southeastern United States and not the Southwest, has a national park in the Smokey Mountains which are in the higher mountains of the Southeast, and they have the Everglades National Park which is mostly water and swamps, and yet from Maryland all down to central Florida, all the way across the Southeastern United States from South Carolina, Georgia, to southeast Texas, we have what is known as the Pine Hardwood Forest.

Only a few miles to the west of here we hit the prairies, not too far. This is the utmost western limit of a great many species which are indigenous from Maryland to Florida to east Texas, and for some unknown reason which no one has really worked up yet, there is a great burst of a jungle-like environment here, in fact, it is an optimum development of this vast area, in which the Government does not own, as far as I know, any essential area as a park.

This vast area, and yet we have the high mountains and the swamps—we ought to have a representation of the great Southeastern pine hardwood forests somewhere, and since the development is so optimum here in Texas—I am a Carolinian, I am a North Carolina-born Texan.

Senator BIBLE. They tell me they are the best kind.

Mr. CORRELL. They are the worst kind, you might say. [Laughter.]

The point is this, we have right here, I can go out 50 miles or less from here, 30 miles, and close my eyes and be dropped there and I will say I am in Pinehurst, N.C., in that area. That means we are in the course bluejack, oak, very dry type of soil and we can go to the Savannahs, we can go to what we call the evergreen shrub, bog, the baygall, and they are all represented in this unique area.

There are many species here. It is the culmination of temperature, topography, and many other factors, soils, and yet we have the prairie next door.

The reason I make that statement is this is not a Texas problem. There are so many factions in this part of the country that are fighting. We are not trying to save it for Houston or Dallas. We are trying to save it for the United States. We are trying to save the Southeast, some representation, for the people of America, not just the Texans, and I think everybody ought to be willing to give somewhere in order to salvage this area.

I could go and name species, the speciation, we say, as you reach the outer periphery of any area, whether it be plants or animals, you will find as they go out they begin looking different. For instance, just one group, the rhododendrons, we have four species in the State, there are more to the east, but we have two of our four replace two in the East, and they are near, and yet they are far, they are two different species.

Now that is the main point I want to make.

A second one is, don't worry about timber being taken. Every park we have in the East has been logged over one or two times. In fact, I would advocate getting some of this cutover land because 50 years from now we are not interested in the problem before the park comes, I will be dead, but our children and our grandchildren are going to enjoy it, 50 years from now a cutover area, you will never know it was cut over any more than you go out now.

The last point I would like to make is regarding the size.

I worked, and I am sure the park people are not here——

Senator BIBLE. Yes, the park people are here.

Mr. CORRELL. I mean the people I worked with, I maybe spent 3 weeks altogether trying to find areas from a botanical standpoint. One reason we developed this string of pearls was not we wanted a Savannah, we wanted a Baygall, we wanted a magnolia, hickory, upland, beech, and this, that and the other, we could not get them all in one spot, but if you made it big enough, you could, and I was rather disappointed to see the results because if you put a corridor through an area, it is going to become polluted with weedy plants, with domestic animals. You have got to have size.

You know that big old Nevada and Wyoming, and Montana, Glacier Park, they did not have 30,000 acres, they get in on the hundreds of thousands of acres. You ought to have some size here to preserve, there is no need of taking any of it if you are not going to preserve it.

I do not know what size it should be, but I certainly am not in favor of having a roadway going up that can be contaminated in time. I go out every trip and find two or three weedy species that have been introduced for the first time in Texas, and we won't have a natural flora. You want biologists, you want naturalists.

One more point, we have lakes, and people say you don't need parks. Sure, water skiing, building developments around the edge of all these lakes, that is one type of recreation. But we want recreation where you do not hear automobiles every minute, you don't hear a motorboat. You need a park area.

To summarize, I would say that it would be very unthinkable and very unwise to ignore saving some representation of the vast southeastern pine hardwood forests, thank you.

(The prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF DONOVAN S. CORRELL, TEXAS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

I would like to go on record in support of a Big Thicket National Park that should be created in southeastern Texas, not only as an aesthetic region of great recreational value but also as an out-of-doors biological laboratory for the biologist and naturalist.

Although the boundaries of the Big Thicket, both Lower and Upper, are only roughly defined, most authorities agree that the region is centered in Hardin County with extensive areas in Polk, Tyler and other adjacent counties. The

limitation of distribution of individual plant species are even more difficult to define than the boundaries of the Thicket, itself. For this reason it is essentially impossible to enumerate plant species that may be solely confined to the Big Thicket, since most plants may be generally distributed in southeast Texas, a floristically rich region.

Therefore, when I speak of plants of the Big Thicket I am referring to plants of southeast Texas.

The forests of east Texas represent the western extremity of the vast woodlands that cover southeastern United States. Practically all of the species that comprise the vegetation composition of this area have reached their westerly migration in the Big Thicket. Because of this, many of the species reveal variations in some of their characteristics from plants of the same species found farther east; for instance, those in Georgia and Alabama. The Big Thicket shows much evidence as being a region of speciation. This is supported by the fact that a number of plants have been described from this area that show distinct relationship with species that occur farther east. It can therefore be considered a haven where plants have become and are becoming adapted to a rather unique environment.

Although the composition of both the woody and the herbaceous elements is distinctly southeastern, there are some endemics that occur in the Big Thicket.

In my forays throughout most of southeastern United States from North Carolina to southern Florida and east Texas, I do not recall any other area that can be said to be identical to the Big Thicket. The Florida Everglades and the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia are different from this region. The rolling Piedmont forests and the more open woodlands of the coastal plains of these more eastern regions are also different. In fact, in the Big Thicket we not only have ecologic representations of all of the above regions, but we have immense areas that resemble tropical jungles to be found in such areas as the states of Tamaulipas and Vera Cruz, Mexico.

A point that might escape the casual observer is the fact that although the Big Thicket is considered a southeastern woodland, and it connotes to the average individual a coastal plain flora, there are some species in the Big Thicket area that have not been reported from Louisiana eastward but are connected with the Appalachian flora from northeastern Arkansas northeastward. The occurrence of these species so far westward, in an almost direct line from the Appalachian area, is another puzzling factor in plant distribution. I do want to emphasize that the Big Thicket is not just another woodland that is so common to most of southeastern United States.

It is unthinkable to knowledgeable biologists that a good representation of this unique area may not be saved for future generations. The region is not only one of great aesthetic value to the naturalist and nature lover, but it is literally an out-of-doors laboratory for the biology student. More than 200 trees and shrubs are indigenous to southeast Texas, of which the Big Thicket forms a prominent part. Many of the trees attain their maximum size in the Big Thicket, especially along Pine Island Bayou and the Neches River. Among these are basket oak, gum and cypress. The beech, which in northeastern United States is to be found on north-facing slopes, grows along streams and on gently rolling lands in the Big Thicket to form forests of magnificent trees. Southern magnolia is known to be ancient and of enormous growth in the Big Thicket. Numerous unique herbaceous plants are to be found in the Big Thicket, including 34 species of ferns and fern allies and 30 species of native orchids. Many plants that are rare to other sections of the country are often common to the area.

My personal opinion is that in order to assure the utmost protection and perpetuation of the flora and fauna of this unique area, a block of at least 75,000 acres should be set aside and maintained as a National Park. If any part of the park is to be maintained as a nature preserve and haven for indigenous plants and animals it should be large enough to include a protective or buffer zone. Otherwise, the area will soon become contaminated by the introduction of weedy plants and domestic animals. Also, any watercourse that is to be a part of a natural preserve should have its headwaters protected from all outside interference and disturbance.

One argument used against the formation of a National Park, and one that I would like to refute most emphatically is based on the assumption that once a forest is disturbed or cut over it is forever lost as a park area possibility. This is a short-sighted and untrue argument that is often used by those who are against the formation of a Park preserve in the Big Thicket.

This fallacy also has been the basis for apparent systematic, purposeful demo-

litions in some choice areas of the Big Thicket, after which opponents can proudly boast that "there is nothing worth saving in the Big Thicket". This selfish argument should never be accepted as a deterrent to the acquisition of lands for a park. For instance, there is little doubt that most of the present so-called "pristine" forest of the Big Thicket has been cut over at least once, if not more. Also, very little, if any, of what are now the Smoky Mt. Park and Shenandoah Parkway escaped logging in the early days. Yet, today, these National Parks, formed primarily of second-growth trees, are great aesthetic assets for not only the Americans along the eastern seaboard, but for all of our people. As long as the ecological phenomenon of "succession" remains a fact we can depend upon a cut-over forest to return eventually to its ultimate climax state if it is set aside and protected.

For this reason, if need be, it would be well to include some cut-over forests within the Park area, not only for the above reason but also because such lands should be less costly to obtain. Studies have shown that quick recovery and rapid growth occur in most of the Big Thicket after logging. In any case, the creation of a park should never be colored by a desire for expediency and immediate results but rather it should be motivated by needs of the future and a desire to preserve something of our inheritance to be enjoyed by those who come after.

To reiterate, I would say that several of the most salient points, from a botanical standpoint, to support setting aside a portion of the Big Thicket for posterity are: (1) The area is the western extremity of the distribution of southeastern United States plants; (2) Critical speciation appears to be occurring there; (3) The region is a haven for a unique composition of plant species; (4) Some elements of the Big Thicket flora are directly related to the Appalachian flora; (5) Several species of trees, including the American holly, American beech and southern magnolia, attain their finest development and largest size in the Big Thicket.

Senator BIBLE. Very fine statement, Doctor.

Senator YARBOROUGH. May I ask a question?

Dr. Correll, have you written texts on the potato, the wild potato plant of Peru, out of which the Irish potatoes were evolved?

Mr. CORRELL. Yes; I wrote a volume on the wild potatoes, a very difficult job.

I might say as a background for my statements here, I have written the "Orchids of North America," and "The Ferns of Texas." I have just written a 2,000-page book; you have Gray's "Manual of Botany," we have Gray's manual for Texas for the first time; it is nearly 6,000 species of plants found in not only here, but all over Texas. So I have some basis for my statement.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to illustrate Dr. Correll's great knowledge of this plant botany of North and South America. I want to relate an instance since I last saw you, Doctor, I was in the Rain Mountains of Peru in 1968, at the interparliamentary union and a man told me of an instance and said, "Do you know Dr. Correll? I saw him down here."

Mr. CORRELL. Yes; he told me.

Senator YARBOROUGH. When he studied the wild potatoes and we were en route to Machu Pichu and Correll stood up and said, "Stop," and said, "I have never seen a potato like this." He discovered a new wild potato, and coming back they talked the conductor of the passenger train to stop in the wilds and he ran out and looked at the species.

Mr. CORRELL. I do not know whether you should say that it connotes a bribery which was just slight.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

Our next witness is Dr. Clarence Cottam of the Welder Wildlife Institute of Sinton, Tex.

Dr. Cottam, we are very happy to have you with us.

STATEMENT OF DR. CLARENCE COTTAM, WELDER WILDLIFE
INSTITUTE OF SINTON, TEX.

DR. COTTAM. Senator Bible and Senator Yarborough, it is a great pleasure and honor being here. I am sorry I was late but I had a letter saying this would start at 9 o'clock instead of 8.

Senator BIBLE. We have you on schedule. You may proceed.

DR. COTTAM. May I just say that Mr. Bonney and my good friend Dr. Correll have expressed very many of my sentiments so I will cut out that part of my speech that I would have given. I would have given much the same as both of these gentlemen would have given, because I agree in general with their point of view.

One point I would like to make in this that others may not make and that is to relate a little experience we had when we attempted to acquire Padre Island, and you will recall some of the details, I know Senator Yarborough will well remember some of the details of that.

One of the criticisms was that it would take a lot of land out of the tax rolls, and it would have some effect there.

As a result of the request that came to me to speak on Padre Island and the value of it, I wanted to get a comparable area, and we do not have any that is quite comparable, I do not have any figures, in the time that I was asked to speak on this, I did not have time to collect figures, but I can—on areas that are quite comparable to this, but it is comparable in some sense.

When we were getting Padre Island, the nearest to that was Cape Hatteras, which I knew every square foot of. I had walked over most of it over the years and I know it rather intimately, so I was interested in finding out what the economics of that area were and how much it would affect the economy of the local area.

I have forgotten the year it was acquired, but I would guess it was about 1952.

A study was made to determine the economic value of the area at the time, and as I recall, it was around \$11 million, the assessed valuation of the county, Dare County, N.C., at that time.

Six years after that park was established, your economic value of the area, a comparable figure then would be \$25 million. I recall that. It was more than doubled. It was considerably more than doubled in that period.

The tax rate when they took the area was \$1 per hundred of taxes, and after 6 years one of the rare examples in American history the taxes were reduced to 80 cents instead of \$1 as a result of the income that had come in as the result of that park.

Tourism and bank deposits had more than doubled, and land valuations outside the park and adjacent areas, many of them had increased from fiftyfold to one hundredfold, 100 times greater than they were before as a result of the increased valuation of the park and the tourism that came in there.

It is true that they did take some land off the tax rolls. Six years after they took that off the tax rolls, the value of this area that they took off the tax rolls would not have amounted to—it would have amounted to less than 1 percent of the income for Dare County, for example.

Now when the area was established, about 60 or 70 percent of all the income for the whole county came from commercial fishing. Today it is less than 10 percent and, at the same time, there has been an increase in commercial fishing both in the number of pounds taken per year and the value dollarwise per year has increased.

Yet today, 57.5 percent of the economic value of that county now is in tourism. Twenty percent is from Government, as you would expect in a big area of this sort, and less than 10 percent is from fishing today.

From the standpoint of economics, they could not afford not to take that area, and that was my feeling on Padre Island, the opponents argued that they could not afford to take it, but, in my opinion, they could *not* afford not to take it from an economic standpoint.

I would like to just make a comment in line with your request to Mr. Bonney as to the size of the area.

There is a great merit in these small red areas. They are of value from the standpoint of research, from the standpoint of having a baseline on which to judge the effects of land management, but I say the comparison of this majestic area in comparison with what it was a hundred years ago, it has been ruined to a large extent, and I think your best evidence is that if we are going to get tourism in this area you have got to have an area of size big enough to accommodate the people and, may I say, Senator, that whatever you get is going to be too small in 25 years from now. You will regret that it was not larger before your bones are buried in the dust.

Senator BIBLE. I think there may be considerable merit that my bones are going to be buried in the dust someday. [Laughter.]

The problem, of course, becomes the price tag. We have many demands on us, on the U.S. Treasury and on the Congress, and there is great merit in what you say about bigger sizes, but price tags are tremendously big.

Dr. COTTAM. That is correct.

Senator BIBLE. This is one of our problems.

Dr. COTTAM. There is no doubt about that. Just before I left the Fish and Wildlife Service, and I was there for 25 years, I was asked to go up to New York City and spend 3 days assisting the city, the city fathers, to find an area where their people could get away from the steel and stone of civilization, and I asked them why they wanted me to come up. They said, "For the simple reason that we find the mental health of our people is infinitely better when they get away to God's country, from the steel and stone of New York City."

Senator BIBLE. I agree with you a hundred percent.

Dr. COTTAM. And the costs of that land, bear in mind, the cost of that land when they had to buy it, and they got a sizable area, the cost of the land they had to buy them at the prices in New York, as compared to what they could have got had some of the city fathers a generation earlier had the good wisdom to look ahead and get some of this.

So I would like to urge strongly that whatever you get is not going to be big enough. Therefore, if we can only get 35,000 acres I am in favor of that, but I am more in favor of getting 100,000 acres, as the Senator has indicated in his proposal.

Well, those are the basic things. I have a lot more I would have liked to have said but I agree with Correll.

Senator BIBLE. We are going to keep the record open for two weeks and I do want to take advantage of your great expertise and ask you to furnish for the record an elaborate fuller statement.

Dr. COTTAM. I have a fuller statement prepared.

Senator BIBLE. And that will be incorporated in the record in full.

(Dr. Cottam's statement was not supplied in time to be included in the record.)

Dr. COTTAM. Could I add just one other thought? Dr. Correll very beautifully expressed the value of the area as a concentration point for many species of plants. I would just like to say from the standpoint of ecology as an ecologist, that the animal associations are dependent upon the plant associations, and therefore, the great value of the area is in bringing together plants from the Everglades, really the types from there to the north, clear to Maryland and down to here, you have got that same concentration of animal associations, of birds. We have got, I think, close to 400 species of birds in this area during the course of a year.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you.

That is a very fine statement and I appreciate it.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I would like to say Dr. Cottam's testimony was a very material factor in the creation of the Padre Island National Seashore, and I understand, Dr. Cottam, some people around the Park Service think when they get their different ranger stations and facilities built there in Padre Island National Seashore that the attendance there will be exceeded only by that of Shenandoah National Park. People are coming from all the Midwestern States here, and I want to thank you again for your great contribution there.

I want to say that I consider this proposal of mine for 100,000 acres a medium, moderate proposal. There has been a suggestion for a park of only 35,000 acres. When I had a conference with the Secretary of the Interior, Walter Hickel, Wednesday morning of this week, he asked me, as he studied it a while and he said, "Why not the 300,000, you used to have three and a half million, that is all that is left," and I explained that with the towns and their impinging on it, that the 100,000 acres is a moderate proposal in view of the urgency of getting a park. And maybe, because he is from Alaska, he just thinks in these large terms.

Senator BIBLE. It took some time to get a State that was bigger than Texas.

Thank you, Doctor.

Our next witness is Mr. O. R. Crawford, president of Texas Forestry Association. We are very happy to see you here this morning as representing the forestry association. I am not going to impose a limitation on you because you are entitled to equal time. So just be seated.

I have your full statement in front of me and I will incorporate it in the record.

STATEMENT OF O. R. CRAWFORD, PRESIDENT, TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, and Senator Yarborough, my name is O. R. Crawford. I am president of the Texas Forestry Association and general manager of Southwestern Timber Co.

Membership in the Texas Forestry Association is composed of 1,800 Texans and Texas firms including tree farmers, woodland owners, forest products processors, civic and conservation groups, professional people, saw mills, pulp and paper producers, and other firms and individuals. Since 1914 our association has served Texas and Texans as a nongovernmental, statewide, privately supported organization promoting the conservation, utilization, and fullest economic development of our forests and related resources.

As we contemplated our first-half century of service to Texas and Texans, we were proud of the congratulatory message received from President Johnson which stated in part :

For the past 50 years the Texas Forestry Association has been in the forefront of our forestry progress * * * You have backed forest management, wise woodland use and protection of our State's forests from insects and disease. The Texas Forestry Association deserves the admiration and support of all who believe in a better America.

The forests of east Texas have been supplying raw material for the forest industry to meet housing and many other needs of the State and the Southwest for more than a century. The total employment in timber-based activities in east Texas is 161,850. Each \$1 from standing trees adds \$25 to Texas' economy through harvesting, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and marketing. Each pulpwood truck, and we have many of them in southeast Texas, adds \$25,000 annually to the community in which it operates. The annual value of shipments from primary and secondary timber manufacturing plants in Texas is \$500 million.

Three years ago, the National Park Service proposed that 35,500 selected acres of land in the Big Thicket be preserved as a national monument. This acreage is in nine separate tracts. After very careful study, it was chosen for two reasons: (1) because it encompasses, collectively, everything of ecological significance in the Big Thicket; and (2) because it is widely dispersed, in a five-county area.

The recommendations of the National Park Service are embodied in House bill 14391, which was introduced in the first session of the 91st Congress by Representatives Dowdy and Cabell. Our association has endorsed these 1967 Park Service recommendations. More than 448 other organizations have joined in this endorsement, and I would like your permission to have the names of these organizations made a part of the permanent record of this hearing.

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, that will be the order.

(The information referred to is in the Committee files.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. I also have, sir, a brochure that was published by the Texas Forestry Association, entitled "The Stewards of the Land."

Senator BIBLE. Without objection that will also be made a part of the record.

(The brochure referred to was not supplied in time to be included in the record.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. All of the 35,500 acres recommended by the Park Service for the "string of pearls" is on privately owned land. The major timberland owners hold title to about 55 percent of this acreage and the remaining 45 percent is divided among a very large number of small timberland owners. Immediately following the release of the

National Park Service report in 1967, the major timberland owners proclaimed a voluntary timber cutting moratorium. This action was commended by former Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall. The Texas Forestry Association also contacted all other members of the Association owning lands in the "string of pearls" and requested that they withhold cutting within the proposed areas until a decision has been reached on the Big Thicket project by the Department of the Interior. Many of the small timberland owners are not members of the Texas Forestry Association and we have no direct influence over their actions.

In the 1967 report by the National Park Service study team, they stated:

Literally the key to comprehending the Big Thicket entity is the analysis that has been made of it, after years of research, by Professor Claude McLeod of Sam Houston State College, Huntsville, Texas. * * * By generously giving his time to direct field participation with the 1966 team as well as placing the results of his work at their disposal, Professor McLeod was responsible in very large measure for the success of the study.

Professor McLeod, I understand is present today and he has indicated that he will be happy to answer any questions if the committee desires to call upon his extensive knowledge of the Big Thicket.

Senator BIBLE. Is Professor McLeod here today. He doesn't appear to be here at this time but if he is here I will ask my, I will ask someone in the audience who might know who the good professor is to let me know or let my staff people know so that we could take advantage of his knowledge of the area and get his opinion and we will be very happy to hear from him.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Thank you, sir.

Senator BIBLE. So you take the burden of having him become acquainted with either Mr. Verkler or Mr. Hartung, our staff people here, then we will hear from him.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Thank you.

The nine tracts in the "string of pearls" were not selected casually. They were chosen after competent Park Service personnel had very carefully examined many different sections within the Big Thicket area. Representatives of our member companies literally walked the land with National Park Service personnel pointing out rare and unusual sections of the Big Thicket worthy of preservation. In Professor McLeod's respected publication, "The Big Thicket of East Texas—Its History, Location and Description," printed by the Sam Houston press and released in 1967, he stated:

Most of the original Big Thicket virgin pine forest was harvested before 1935. * * * Only a few virgin loblolly pine trees may be seen today growing on the more remote, inaccessible sites of the Thicket forest. It is not unusual for large second growth loblolly pine occurring on favorable sites to be mistaken for virgin pine trees.

It should also be emphasized that the Big Thicket is not a solid or uninterrupted, readily definable area. This point has been made a number of times. Very recently it was reiterated in an article in the Houston Post as follows:

It is not hard in Southeast Texas, where everybody is an "expert" on the Big Thicket, to get an argument about where it is. Some historians look back to the early explorers' descriptions of East Texas and cite the original Thicket as that

area of climax forest that lay between the Camino Real on the north, the Sabine River on the east, the coastal prairies on the south, and the Brazos River on the west. No one doubts that this was a great forest, but the early Texas settlers that took over this area soon tamed it to the cow and the plow and never called all of it the Big Thicket.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Did you say never referred to the Big Thicket?

Mr. CRAWFORD. Yes, sir; this is a quote and I will refer to it.

Senator YARBOROUGH. It has been called that since I was at least 6 or 7 years of age, I can remember that long living up on the Neches River.

Mr. CRAWFORD. They never called all of this area the Big Thicket, sir.

Senator BIBLE. I don't know what they call it but I assume it was kind of beautiful, whatever it was. It had some kind of ecological balance or something that should be preserved. Everyone seems to be in agreement that some part of it should be preserved and you, as the spokesman for the forestry industry, say 35,000 acres should be preserved and others say it should be larger and that is really the crux of the whole problem. When we get down to oversimplifying the statements as to what the basis is, everybody seems to say there is something here that should be preserved for its beauty and value, and as representative of the trees of this area, and I think we get down to what is the size. I think it still boils down to size and I suppose to costs. You may proceed.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Thank you, sir. This is still continuing from the Houston Post article:

An East Texas biologist decided that tree and soil types were the means of defining the boundaries of the Big Thicket, and he ended up stretching it as far northeast as Jasper and as far west as Conroe. His speculations disregarded the fact that all female collies aren't called Lassie and that things that look alike don't always have the same name. Various chambers of commerce and dollar-eyed promoters of the tourist trade have stretched the boundaries of the Thicket so that it has thinly covered about every county in East Texas.

This was written by Francis E. Abernethy, a member of the faculty of Stephen F. Austin State University. What the author is saying—and he is considered something of an expert on the Big Thicket—is that opinions differ as to a correct definition of the Thicket. Because of this, it follows that size alone cannot be the basis for preserving the Thicket. Rather, quality selection should limit public acquisition to that acreage which best demonstrates the unique ecological qualities of the Thicket. The National Park Service recognized this in its well-formulated proposal of 3 years ago.

Sir, I am cutting my testimony short, I am getting off of the prepared text for just a minute.

For 18 years I have been associated with a part of the land under consideration today. It is important to note that practically all of the land, with very few exceptions, has been cut several times the past 100 years. It has been through the management of its present owners that we—that the Big Thicket is what it is today. We have regrown what was destroyed in years past. I take exception to the statements to the effect that the landowners are destroying the Big Thicket, are fighting the formation of a Big Thicket national park or monument.

To the contrary, we have endorsed such a park. We differ only as to size. But I say again we will preserve and protect every tree or plant of value that should be protected, and should be preserved.

I have much admiration for Mr. Bonney and his work, and we plan to work very close with Mr. Bonney and the Sierra Club in the future. In fact, I am a member of the Sierra Club.

This is not all of my condensed statement, but as it is on file here, and in your office in Washington, I will not take up any more of your time as I understand you have a rather busy schedule for the rest of the day, but wish to leave with you this very important fact: The national park people chose the 35,500 acres because it contained flora and fauna that were rare and unique. They were sent back in 1967 to see if they could come up with additional acreage, and the only way additional acreage could be justified was by adding the recreation feature. We say that they should be separated.

Let's preserve the Big Thicket and recreate on the large lakes and national forests which are located just a few miles to the north.

(The prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF O. R. CRAWFORD, PRESIDENT, TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

My name is Oliver R. Crawford. I am president of the Texas Forestry Association and general manager of Southwestern Timber Co.

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release of the National Park Service report in 1967, the major timberland owners proclaimed a voluntary timber cutting moratorium. This action was commended by Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall. The Texas Forestry Association also contacted all other members of the Association owning lands in the "string-of-pearls" and requested that they withhold cutting within the proposed areas until a decision had been reached on the Big Thicket project by the Department of the Interior. Many of the small timberland owners are not members of the Texas Forestry Association and we have no direct influence over their actions.

In the 1967 report by the National Park Service study team, they stated, "Literally the key to comprehending the Big Thicket entity is the analysis that has been made of it, after years of research, by Professor Claude McLeod of Sam Houston State College, Huntsville, Texas . . . By generously giving his time to direct field participation with the 1966 team as well as placing the results of his work at their disposal, Prof. McLeod was responsible in very large measure for the success of the study." Professor McLeod is present today and he has indicated that he will be happy to answer any questions if the committee desires to call upon his extensive knowledge of the Big Thicket.

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A fundamental problem facing the forestry industry today is that of having enough land to grow the enormous amounts of wood needed now and in the future. Our industry faces the dilemma of being asked to grow more wood while simultaneously being asked to give up the lands on which this wood must be grown. Setting aside 100,000 or 200,000 acres of East Texas forest land would only add to this dilemma.

Our Association believes in the full recreational development of suitable publicly owned land, to include camping, hiking, boating, picnicking, horseback rid-

ing, bicycling, fishing, hunting, bird watching, botanical gardens, wildlife habitats, scientific laboratories and any other recreational and scientific uses. Such areas should encompass the maximum number of harmonious uses and minimum acreage allocated exclusively for one single purpose.

Most of the Big Thicket region in East Texas is privately owned, certified as Tree Farms, and dedicated to the growth of continuous crops of forest products. They are managed under the multiple use concept. Owners of these lands are to be commended. They have been doing something constructive about improving the environment; they were among the first practicing ecologists.

Any government proposal to acquire privately owned lands in fee must give full protection to the local ad valorem tax structure. When private lands are acquired for public use, they are removed from the local tax roll. When lands are so withdrawn annual maintenance costs of such public use projects should include funds to supplement the loss of local ad valorem taxes. Without a contribution from government, the remaining private properties within these local taxing jurisdictions will necessarily be burdened with more than a fair share of ad valorem taxes. We are opposed to any plan that removes lands from the tax rolls without providing for this loss.

Federal and state governments own approximately 39 per cent of the land in our 50 states. This means that the remaining 61 per cent of the land carries all of the land tax load necessarily imposed by local government.

In spite of this, the federal and state governments continue to acquire acreage; and there are new proposals daily which—if acted upon—would further deplete our commercial forest lands.

The South's Third Forest, a comprehensive report released in 1969 by the Southern Forest Resource Analysis Committee, emphasized that timber needs in 30 years must be provided on 10,000,000 fewer acres of forest land in the South than we now have. At the same time requirements for wood are expected to double or even triple.

It seems to us worthwhile to briefly examine the reasons given by various proponents of land acquisition. Most advocates cite the need for outdoor recreation facilities. A few want land which will preserve the forest in its most primeval state. The legislation under consideration here today takes still another approach. It seeks to set aside land which will combine both wilderness and recreation.

We honestly question the proposition that wilderness has such wide appeal as to justify a park of the size proposed in Senate Bill 4. We sincerely do not believe that the primary interest of the general public is in land that would remain undeveloped and virtually inaccessible. Nor do we believe that recreation and wilderness can be combined.

Experience shows us that the interest of the public is in land where there can truly be outdoor recreation—boating, cookouts, campouts and the like. Industrial forest lands here in East Texas have more than 1,700 miles of streams open for fishing. The public has access to 177 natural lakes containing 1,318 acres and 55 artificial lakes with nearly 55,000 acres of water surface. I can assure you that the public recognizes and takes advantage of these facilities.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, a study of the use of picnic facilities by Hubert Burke in Pennsylvania showed that picnickers seldom use tables more than 250 feet from a parking area. Even under extremely crowded conditions, only a few of the tables 300 feet from cars were used, and tables beyond 400 feet were not used at all. People would spread a blanket between the occupied tables near the parking-strip rather than walk the relatively short distance to an empty table.

One of the latest of many educational projects initiated by the Texas Forestry Association is the establishment of a series of TFA Woodlands Trails on privately owned timberland. These scenic areas, some of which are located in the Big Thicket area, have been carefully selected and cleared for walking and hiking and are open to the public. These trails are on industrial forest lands. They demonstrate that it is possible to use our forests for enjoyment as well as employment.

Additional trails are in the planning stage. TFA Woodlands Trails signs mark the location of each completed trail. Bridle paths and areas suitable for Boy Scout camping are also planned for inclusion in this series.

TFA Woodlands Trails vary in length. This educational program gives the public the opportunity to observe unique forest ecology, forest management, wildflowers and wildlife on privately owned, tax-paying tree farms. The trails are ideal for nature and botanical study.

The industry-owned forests in East Texas are managed by professional foresters employing the most up-to-date scientific woodlands management techniques

in planting, growing and harvesting trees. Timberland thus managed produces more healthy timber per acre than lands where trees simply grow unmanaged—allowing a slow process of “survival of the fittest.” While the primary purpose of industrial forests is to supply raw material for industry mills, these forests also serve as valuable watersheds and provide cover and food for wildlife. In addition, every acre contributes to the local tax base.

Construction and maintenance of TFA Woodlands Trails is another example of how Texas Forestry Association industrial members make multiple use of their timberlands by opening their forests for public enlightenment and enjoyment.

The Big Thicket region of Southeast Texas makes a vital contribution to the overall Texas economy including forest products, minerals, farming, grazing, water conservation, wildlife and recreational developments. Therefore, it is important that any proposal to appropriate timberland for parks, monuments, recreation or any other public single-use should withdraw a minimum acreage so as to lessen the impact upon the economy and the community involved. It is recognized that these lands are already dedicated to, and managed under the conservation principles of wise and multiple use.

Land on which wood can be grown commercially is being withdrawn by various sectors of the government at a rate of 5,000 acres per day. The forest industry here in East Texas has felt the impact of land withdrawal very strongly. Since 1951, we have given up 128,000 acres of land to highways, pipelines and the like. Nearly 500,000 acres have gone into such water impoundment projects as Lake Sam Rayburn, Town Bluff Reservoir, Toledo Bend, Lake Livingston and others.

The recreational potential of the areas is undeniable. It is readily apparent that the lands surrounding these water impoundment projects can be developed very inexpensively, in such a manner as to give the public the outdoor recreational facilities so greatly in demand.

The federal government itself recognizes this. There are 135 designated recreation areas throughout the Southern National Forest Region. Eleven of these are on national forest lands here in Texas. Within recent weeks a new recreation area has been opened in the Sabine National Forest on Toledo Bend Reservoir. This area includes more than 130 camping and picnic units, boat ramps, a fish cleaning station, a 500-seat campfire theater and a self-guiding forest nature trail.

We believe that development of the lands surrounding the lakes of East Texas should have priority over acquisition of giant wilderness areas. Further, we do not believe that it is feasible to combine the concepts of recreation and wilderness, which would be the effect of Senate Bill 4. One calls for hunting and fishing and camping—and the other calls for little or no use at all.

Nearly 3,000,000 acres of land in Texas are already held by the Federal Government. In East Texas, four national forests have a net acreage of 658,027 acres. We believe that land presently owned by the Federal Government—both that in the national forests and fronting on lakes in East Texas—should be utilized to the fullest extent before large tracts of privately owned timberland are taken out of production.

The 1967 Park Service Report stated, “In order to preserve the significant, widely dispersed features of the Big Thicket without causing undue impact on the established economy or on any member of the industry, it is proposed that the objective be implemented by means of a series of small, detached tracts rather than one large one . . . In this manner, the essential features of the National Monument can be encompassed within a fraction of the land which would otherwise be required in a single conventional unit large enough to include them all—not to mention certain serious factors of unsuitability and unfeasibility which the large unit would have.”

The 1967 Park Service report also stated, “The dispersal concept has a further advantage of distributing the economic benefits from tourism to all sections of the area involved as well as minimizing visitor congestion in any one part of the forest.”

Proponents of Senate Bill 4 have said that the larger the Big Thicket Monument, the greater the benefits from tourism. We believe the 35,500 acre “string-of-pearls” will attract just as many tourist dollars.

The January 20, 1969 editorial in the Dallas Morning News entitled “String-of-Pearls Park” stated, “The soundness of this plan will appeal to Texans and merits careful consideration. It is not necessary to block off a large acreage to preserve the attractions of the Big Thicket. It is necessary to do the job at a minimum cost possible to secure the desired results. It is highly important to disrupt the economy as little as possible. The ‘string-of-pearls’ idea is a gem that should be used.”

In summary, we agree that examples of the unique ecology of the Big Thicket are worthy of preservation. We believe these examples can be preserved and are sufficiently protected with adequate buffer strips in the 35,500-acre National Monument as cited by the National Park Service in 1967. We respectfully request that H.R. 14391 be substituted for S. 4 and we urge that the 1967 recommendations of the Park Service be followed.

Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. I think it is a very fine statement and a very fair and objective statement, and again I want to express to you and through you to the members of your association my thanks for what seems to me to be a cooperative effort in trying to resolve the problem here.

I know in most of these hearings we are always looking for the bad man and usually the lumberman has been that way and in some of these areas I have handled, but you seem to have an attitude of helpful cooperation. I don't know the correct size. This is my first time here, and I am sure even after I tour it I won't know the correct size, but I think by working together and in a spirit of cooperation and this is why I insisted that the Director of the Park Service in person come here today to hear the testimony, to come to a conclusion and a recommendation as to what should properly be done. We are all interested in preserving our country. You have different pressures on you in these areas such as this, you have the recreationist and you have the conservationist, and it is hard to balance the pressures that come from each because they are different requirements. You can't take a fragile forest, you can't take something like the forest glades and devastate the area, because you will devastate the ecology. We found that, in the Connecticut River area where we were a couple of weeks ago, which is another great part of this beautiful country. This is a great problem that Senator Yarborough recognizes well. All we are trying to do is develop something practical that will be acceptable, and I think by working together, we can make a lot of headway.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Thank you, sir. I think the most important part of my testimony, sir, was the fact we have regrown the Big Thicket. It was practically destroyed in the past by the old timber barons, as they have been called, and I am sure they were.

Senator BIBLE. I am sure that with due respect to our elders, I have seen some of the great mountains of my State devastated by some of the earlier lumber barons. They had a little different concept. But the younger generation recognizes more the need now for conservation, and I am a great admirer of the Forest Service. I think they have done tremendous work in reforestation and in regulated cutting and that type of a conservation move, and I applaud them for it. So I think working together we can come out with something here that we can use. Thank you very much.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Thank you very much.

Senator BIBLE. Senator Yarborough says he would like to ask a question.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Yes, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. These 448 organizations that have approved the 35,000 acre size, they are different Lions Clubs and clubs in local county seats over Texas, many of them, aren't they?

Mr. CRAWFORD. Yes, sir; there are State and national organizations, including the National Wildlife Association.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The Texas Forestry Association had two men traveling over Texas drumming up those endorsements over a considerable time; did they not?

Mr. CRAWFORD. No; I think quite a few of our members, we have a slide presentation which is built around the pamphlet, the booklet you have, "Story of the Land," and they did show this, and we do show the slide presentation wherever we are asked at different service clubs.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You have had two men; is it correct, you had two men assigned to go over Texas to get those endorsements?

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Ed Wagoner, the executive vice president of the Texas Forestry Association, has spent quite a bit of time, but also some of my people who work with me in my company and other members of the Texas Forestry Association have had members who have worked on it.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Is it true you had the Rives-Dyke agency, to help propagandize?

Mr. CRAWFORD. Rives-Dyke helped us put this and the slide presentation together.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Did they help put together the tour this week of newspapermen who were invited from all over the State, to tell that there wasn't any Big Thicket there?

Mr. CRAWFORD. Rives-Dyke is our public relations people. They were invited, we had a press tour of our paper mill and of the woods. I never heard the statement made there was not a Big Thicket. We did discuss it one afternoon for just a few minutes, and there are some of the gentlemen here today that were on that press tour.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Rives-Dyke also produced the Port Arthur story that said Port Arthur was a dead city.

Mr. CRAWFORD. I don't know.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You are not familiar with it?

Senator BIBLE. I don't think that is germane to the Big Thicket hearing. I am well aware of the conservationists and all others who go through certain propaganda exercises on both sides. I am very familiar with the Sierra Club, and I have had a tough time staying in good standing with them even though I consider myself to be a conservationist. I think everybody tries to put his best foot forward. Even we in the political arena are known to put press agents on our own staff to try to present our better image to the public, and I suppose this happens in whatever industry or whatever period of life you are in. I am a lawyer by profession and I know what the lawyers do as well as the doctors and the rest of the professionals.

So I think it is kind of a normal human American exercise really to attempt to tell their story.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the Texas Forestry Association for supporting this 35,000 acres. When we started on this we had opposition to anything. This is progress and I want to commend you. While I am very much attached to the hundred thousand acres, I am not for rule or ruin. I don't take a position that I must get my way or we won't have a park. Knowing the hundred thousand is modest, I hope we can get it, but I want to commend you for at least endorsing the 35,000 acres, and I would rather have that than to have nothing.

Mr. CRAWFORD. We do not have a closed mind.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That is my position. I would much rather have that than not have anything and I do commend you for endorsing that

because I remember a few years ago we didn't have that much support for even that much.

Mr. CRAWFORD. We, too, do not have a closed mind on the subject, sir.

Senator BIBLE. I appreciate this mutual exchange. Thank you very much. You have been a fine witness.

Our next witness is Mr. Charles H. Wilbanks, president of the Big Thicket Association. Mr. Wilbanks, we are happy to see you this morning.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES H. WILBANKS, PRESIDENT, THE BIG THICKET ASSOCIATION

Mr. WILBANKS. Senator Yarborough, Senator Bible, I would like to make these statements to go into the record. The Big Thicket Association, a chartered conservation organization, wishes to voice its unanimous support of the Big Thicket National Park movement. We believe that the unique ecology of the Thicket with its great natural beauty makes it imperative that we preserve this rare plant and animal life immediately. To do this properly we feel that the most beautiful and unique areas should be set aside, with protective buffer zones around each to serve as environmental guards against drainage, since continuous water is the major lifeline. There should also be corridors along the main streams forming a continuous circular route of passage for the wildlife which cannot stand too much confinement.

The purpose, of course, of the proposed national park is to preserve and to protect a sample of the distinctive segments of American past.

Time is running out. The inroads of civilization are daily taking its toll on this great heritage. So we are asking Congress to please pass immediately the S. 4 bill which will set aside this biological storehouse for future generations to enjoy and use in scientific study.

The Big Thicket Association also endorses naming a part of the park after Mr. Lance Rosier, and I thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much—very fine statement. I enjoyed visiting with you last evening.

Our next witness is Mr. Dempsie Henley, Commissioner for Indian Affairs.

STATEMENT OF DEMPSIE HENLEY, CHAIRMAN, TEXAS COMMISSION FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HENLEY. Mr. Chairman, Senator Bible, Senator Yarborough—

Senator BIBLE. I compliment you on your blue outfit there.

Mr. HENLEY. Well, you made me sit down and nobody can see it now. [Laughter.]

Senator BIBLE. I am wearing a blue shirt myself, but yours is bluer. [Laughter.]

You can stand up and take a bow at the end.

Mr. HENLEY. I will do it now. [Applause.]

Senator BIBLE. I only say that because you look like a good friendly fellow. I wouldn't want to engage you except on a friendly basis.

Mr. HENLEY. Probably on this informal note, I heard you ask, Senator, you said where the devil is Liberty. We had a man come down from New York recently, got off the train at Liberty and looked around and said "If this is liberty, give me death." [Laughter.]

Senator BIBLE. I can assure you nothing like that was said, but it makes a good story. [Laughter.]

OK, you may proceed.

Mr. HENLEY. Thank you, sir. I am appearing here, of course, as Chairman of the Texas Indian Commission, and I have just a brief resolution I would like to read:

Whereas the Texas Commission for Indian Affairs is charged with the development of the human and economic resources of the Texas Indian people, and

Whereas the creation of a Big Thicket National Park would directly affect and greatly benefit the Alabama-Coushatta Indians of Polk County, Texas, and

Whereas all proposed Park plans call for the terminal point to be at the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation in the Big Thicket and thereby cause an estimated one billion visitors per year to enter and visit the Indian Reservation: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Texas Commission for Indian Affairs does hereby highly recommend and endorse the plans to create a Big Thicket National Park of at least 100,000 acres in size.

We would just like to add this comment. I had the responsibility and the good fortune to host Senator Yarborough, the U.S. park study teams, Justice William O. Douglas and others when we made this extensive tour that has been referred to in 1967 and 1968 of the Big Thicket. We found that the Big Thicket was no longer one vast wilderness area, but there were yet remaining areas that were very significant, as they termed it, having national botanical significance, and these areas were proposed to go into a park, and the plan was highly received with the exception it had no central area, and this has been the problem. We are trying to attach a central area to compose a protective band upon the so-called string of pearls.

It has been my experience as Indian Commissioner, as you are going to see later today when we are going to have the pleasure of taking Senator Yarborough and you to the Indian Reservation, we have found an honorable means to help the Indian people of the State to recover their integrity and have an economic base, and we found there is tourism and we found the land we set up there for tourism far exceeded the loss in revenue by tourist dollars considerably, I would say 50-to-1, so I go along with the theory that anything we take out of the Big Thicket should be reasonable, but by the same token, it will far offset it in economic tourist dollars.

I would like to say, Senator, in Texas here we haven't concerned ourselves much with conservation in the past because we haven't had to. But now we realize, like everybody else throughout the country, we only have an estimated 10 percent of our natural environment left, and we are destroying the remaining 10 percent faster than we did the 90 percent. So it behooves us to do what you, exactly what you said earlier, we must move on this promptly. This is not like Guadalupe National Park or the Padre Island National Seashore. This is a very perishable area and it is depleting and disappearing much faster than these areas made up of rocks and mountains and so forth. So it is very urgent that we do this, and if the statement was made that in four years

we won't have a Big Thicket, I partly agree with this because if we don't do something soon we won't have a Big Thicket Park.

I read the other day where it said this country will probably not produce any more men of the caliber of Abraham Lincoln mainly because we are destroying the environment and background it takes to produce that kind of a man. I am partly saying this, I am not saying if we save the Big Thicket we are going to have a bunch of Abraham Lincolns spring up there, but I will tell you one thing we have had six Governors from the State of Texas, including the two U.S. Senators, including the one sitting to your right, so we need these areas and we need the Big Thicket as a national park. We are hoping you will go back today to Washington when you leave here and after hearing all this expert testimony and after seeing first-hand on the tour we are going to take you on later that we really should, we owe it to ourselves to set part of this Big Thicket aside. If we don't do this our conscience should be bothering us because the State of Texas will be the big loser and the people of the country will be the big loser.

We are very honored that you would come and be here and we salute Senator Yarborough for his outstanding record on conservation. He has done a tremendous job for the State of Texas, and I for one thank you very much and thank you, sir, for coming.

(Resolutions follow:)

RESOLUTION—TEXAS COMMISSION FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS

Whereas the Texas Commission for Indian Affairs is charged with the development of the human and economic resources of the Texas Indian people, and

Whereas the creation of a Big Thicket National Park would directly effect and greatly benefit the Alabama-Coushatta Indians of Polk County, Texas, and

Whereas all proposed Park plans call for the terminal point to be at the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation in the Big Thicket and thereby cause an estimated 1,000,000,000 visitors per year to enter and visit the Indian Reservation; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Texas Commission for Indian Affairs does hereby highly recommend and endorse the plans to create a Big Thicket National Park of at least 100,000 acres in size.

Adopted and approved this 22nd day of April, 1970.

DEMPSIE HENLEY, *Chairman*,
VICTOR FAIN, *Commissioner*,
ED EASTERLING, *Commissioner*.

RESOLUTION—CITY OF LIBERTY, TEX.

Whereas, the citizens of Liberty and the state of Texas and of the United States benefit from the facilities of National Parks, and

Whereas, the citizens of Liberty, the state of Texas and the United States would materially benefit by the preservation of botanical and wilderness areas, and

Whereas, the preservation of rare wildlife is of great interest to the citizens of the United States, and

Whereas, the creation of a 100,000 acre "Big Thicket" National Park would preserve one of the nation's last botanical wildernesses and preserve the remaining virgin timber, provide additional recreational areas, and aid in preserving many species of wildlife; now, therefore, let it be

Resolved, That the Mayor of the City of Liberty, State of Texas does hereby urge that the United States Senate Sub-Committee on Parks and Recreation give favorable recommendation to the creation of and the maintenance of a National Park of at least 100,000 acres in East Texas area to be known as the "Big Thicket National Park"; and further, let it be

Resolved, That Dempsie Henley, former Mayor of the City of Liberty be requested to deliver this resolution to the Honorable Alan Bible, Chairman of the United States Senate Sub-Committee on Parks and Recreation in Beaumont, Texas, June 12, 1970.

Approved on this 11th day of June, 1970.

DEWIE MAJORS, *Mayor*.

Attest:

MARGUERITE LAMB, *City Secretary*.

RESOLUTION—DAYTON, TEX.

Whereas, the citizens of Dayton and the state of Texas and of the United States benefit from the facilities of National Parks, and

Whereas, the citizens of Dayton, the state of Texas and the United States would materially benefit by the preservation of botanical and wilderness areas, and

Whereas, the preservation of rare wildlife is of great interest to the citizens of the United States, and

Whereas, the creation of a 100,000 acre "Big Thicket" National Park would preserve one of the nation's last botanical wildernesses and preserve the remaining virgin timber, provide additional recreational areas, and aid in preserving many species of wildlife; now, therefore, let it be

Resolved, That the Mayor and the City Council of the city of Dayton, state of Texas in formal meeting do hereby urge that the United States Senate Sub-Committee on Parks and Recreation give favorable recommendation to the creation of and the maintenance of a National Park of at least 100,000 acres in East Texas area to be known as the "Big Thicket National Park"; and further, let it be

Resolved, That Dempsie Henley, Chairman of the Texas Commission for Indian Affairs be requested to deliver our petition to the Honorable Alan Bible, Chairman of the United States Senate Sub-Committee on Parks and Recreation in Beaumont, Texas, June 12, 1970.

Approved and adopted on this 27th day of April, 1970.

M. W. FORD, Jr., *Mayor*,

TROY F. WILSON,

D. R. DAVIS,

SAM F. HUGHES,

REGINALD WILSON, M.D.

City Council Members.

Senator BIBLE. We appreciate your testimony. Thank you a lot. Give him a hand with that blue suit. [Applause.]

Thank you very much. We have to brighten up these hearings a little here and there. I think we would, if we all laughed a little here and there, we would be a little better off in this troubled world we are in.

Our next witness will be Mr. Jim Bowmer, the Explorers Club of Texas.

STATEMENT OF JIM D. BOWMER, PRESIDENT, THE EXPLORERS CLUB OF TEXAS

Mr. BOWMER. Mr. Chairman, Senator Yarborough, I am here representing the Texas Explorers Club of which I am president and of which Senator Yarborough is one of our good members. I also have just completed a term as charter member of the board of directors of the National Park Foundation, and belong to a number of outdoor organizations.

I endorse and the Explorers Club endorses thoroughly Senator Yarborough's bill for a 100,000 acre park and, in fact, outside of that,

I endorse the 300,000 Hickel proposal, as you know. But I realize we have to do the possible.

Most of the material we will submit in a written statement but I will say two or three things that aren't covered by our statement, if I may.

Senator BIBLE. Certainly.

(The written statement referred to by Mr. Bowmer was not received in time to be included in the record.)

Mr. BOWMER. One is that, touching the reason why we need a big area, I might say first of all, that we can't preserve the ecological importance of an area with a small tract; the experts will cover this more thoroughly but you can't just take a few hundred acres or a small corridor along the edge of a stream and preserve it as an ecological unit for the future. You may be able to get the impression of it until that ecology dies out on that. You are still in that sort of area as you paddle along Village Creek or something like that, but you won't have it for the future and, of course, we hope to plan for eternity, that is for our country for future generations. We see these things but we want our children to see them.

So we feel that only by preserving, say, a subportion of a watershed can we preserve the ecology of that area. Only by preserving the tributaries into a creek or a river can we preserve something of the unit of that river for the future.

The second reason that I think we need a big area, the experts will talk more about the ecology, and have done so in their written statements which cover it more, but another reason is that the population pressures would destroy a bunch of small units. In fact, we have some State parks now, Senator Yarborough, as you know, that are too small and they are not even well attended. But assuming that they were, if you would just get the pearls and you don't have any buffer around it, either it won't attract the people or else they will destroy it, one or the other.

Now, I greatly favor the remarks of the administration that they want, Secretary Hickel, that he wants to take the parks to the people, so to speak, have parks that will help relieve these urban pressures. But a few small areas just simply won't accomplish that, and I am sure he had that in mind, Senator Yarborough, when he made that statement to you, that here are the ideals, we have got the ecology, we have got the uniqueness we have all those things you look for in setting your criteria for Federal acquisition and, at the same time, you have all the people here. This is an area that wears well. You go to it once, you want to go back. You paddle down Village Creek, you can't see it all from the car, you don't say you have been here until you go into it, and when you do go into it you find you have an element of discovery yourself.

For instance, Senator, on one of our trips one of our people said sort of apologetically "Let me go over and show this group of out-of-State dignitaries a big cypress," and he was sort of apologetic because he said they have seen so many pretty things. But we went over and later measured this enormous magnificent cypress and it was the tallest in America, I think in the world, and it was within half a mile of a subdivision yet relatively unknown.

This is the sort of thing that you can still discover. Now so far as the land values are concerned, this sounds argumentative, I know, but I don't really say it facetiously because I am trying to make a point, that if the Federal Government thought it had a bad deal, I am sure we could get a group together to take it off their hands in 10 or 15 years, because the value is going to go up so much.

The importance of that is that I don't think we are doing any injustice to people who own 85 percent of that land, to take a hundred thousand acres, and make a national park out of it, because the value of their remaining land is so tremendously enhanced by the activities that the statistics show accompany a national park, that I think that they, as well as everybody else, will be greatly benefited by it.

In conclusion, so far as the beauties of the park area, the proposed area, are concerned, I hope you will have an opportunity, if you have not already done so, to see a movie that Peter Koch, the great naturalist has made of the area.

Senator BIBLE. I have not seen it as yet, I have been told about it.

Mr. BOWMER. Yes, sir.

Senator BIBLE. You can rest assured I will invite not only the members of my subcommittee but the members of the whole U.S. Senate to view it.

Mr. BOWMER. I appreciate the opportunity to make this statement.

Senator BIBLE. I appreciate your appearance this morning.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Just one clarifying question, Jim. You said take these 100,000 acres, 80 percent; you mean of course they are going to be paid a fair market value.

Mr. BOWMER. Oh, yes.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I fear this record might, unexplained, mean the Government is just going to get the land. This is where they are paid the fair market value either by agreement or condemnation.

Mr. BOWMER. Oh, yes, sir, they would get the present value of the land and the benefits of the enhancement of the remaining land. I am sorry I did not make that clear.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

Our next witness is Dr. J. P. Kennedy, chairman, Department of Animal Ecology, University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Science, Texas Medical Center of Houston. Dr. Kennedy, you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF DR. J. P. KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL ECOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE, TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER OF HOUSTON

Dr. KENNEDY. Thank you, Senator Bible.

Mr. Chairman, Senator Yarborough, ladies and gentlemen, the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has or will hear the voices of those crying in the wilderness today as they debate the Big Thicket, its boundaries, its future, its natural endowments and its importance to man. The impending conflict between the annually increasing gross national product and the daily decreasing quality of human life is nearing climax. I, therefore, propose to comment briefly upon the quality of

life as it pertains to the environment of those now living and those yet to come. It would appear that what we do today determines what is possible tomorrow.

On more than one occasion I have made the usual assumption that tables of numbers, charts, graphs, photographs or the appeal to authorities through citations of the ones that agreed with me could prove any of my opinions. Let me momentarily delay that academic procedure and share with you a little philosophy of the environment, which, I believe, is central to a committee that concerns itself with the interior and insular affairs of man.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

In the noisy country of the present the fauna and flora are marching swiftly to the marketplace—never to return. Their leader is man. His capacity and record for destruction of the natural environment is second to none. His adventures in the marketplace are without parallel and often without an intelligent concern for the future. Man exceeds all the other animals in his capacity to exploit and change his environment. He exploits his environment as if it were infinite and without concern for those yet to come. The places in which we live too often bear the cumulative scars inflicted by human generations of the past. Environments not yet abused are soon exploited as man moves on with his mighty machines, leveling the forests, excising the land, discoloring the streams and packaging the offerings of the bounty of nature. Man moves vegetation and earth in his search for economic gain.

The simple recognition that some qualities of the environment are irreplaceable is usually not made until those qualities are no longer present. The preservation of open grassland, desert, forest or thicket, big and small, with their natural endowments, may be more important to those yet to come than the erection of high rise, or is it high rent, apartments. The construction of freeways—

Senator BIBLE. I might say in Washington it is both, high rise and high rent. But please go ahead.

Dr. KENNEDY. May I continue?

Senator BIBLE. Certainly, proceed.

Dr. KENNEDY. The construction of freeways that bisect city and country makes it possible to course from one town to another without ever realizing that one has changed locations. There are no trees. The buildings look the same. Only the names are different to aid those who must return. Variety maybe the spice of life, but not when it is valued by the square foot.

There must be, here and now, an ethical change in man's relationship to the natural environment and the plants and animals that share it with him. I speak of the necessity to induce in every living human being a reverence for the living and the place in which we and all other organisms live or might live. Society must evolve a new ethic which precludes the exploitation and abuse of the natural resources of this planet. We can destroy and exploit the environment, but in so doing we cannot improve the quality of human existence because man and animal must live together in equilibrium. To pluck the flower is no longer to have it. To preserve the natural environment is to preserve

oneself. We are partial custodians of the world ecosystem and we must seek to keep it in harmony and to pass it on to those yet to come, hopefully better, but certainly no worse.

The Big Thicket of Texas is a way of life and quite life in out of way places. As it is known today, it extends over approximately 435,000 acres in parts of Hardin, Tyler, Polk and Liberty Counties. There are numerous plant and animal species living in this area but in terms of the abundance and density of plant growth as well as in size, the Big Thicket is only a remnant of its former luxuriance; and it is still being destroyed by the hands of man. In times past a luxuriant virgin forest with a rich and diversified fauna and flora existed over much of the southeastern corner of Texas. This region of dense vegetation has been referred to as the Big Thicket and once extended over 3,350,000 acres, mostly west of the Sabine River. The records of the Spanish padres provide some evidence as to the extensive plant growth of the Big Thicket before its habitation and destruction by man. The padres observed that between the missions in Nacogdoches County and the Gulf there existed a forest so thick that it was impossible to traverse it even afoot and that the Indians in traveling from the inland missions to the Gulf went by canoe as there were no trails (Parks, Corey, et al., 1938).

Increasing population and depletion of natural resources and almost instant communication indicate that we can anticipate greater interaction between man and between man and his environment. The daily roar of the bulldozer and the chain saw indicate that it is not too early to salvage and protect the remains of the once full and pristine environment of the Big Thicket.

There is abundant support from the scientific community regarding the need for the preservation and study of the fauna and flora of the austroriparian ecological communities of the Big Thicket. As the official representative of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, and I record their resolution with this committee, I record their support for a Big Thicket National Park. Much of the desirable area to be included in the proposed national park is relatively free of human habitation. Between 100,000 and 200,000 acres should be included in the Big Thicket National Park. This area is necessary to preserve its biological integrity and to share certain areas with the public. Important ecologic areas for conservation include: the Clear Fork Bog in Tyler County (see statement of Professors Frederick R. Gehlbach and Harley W. Reno, and I would like to refer to that in a moment if I may, the area of loblolly pines near Moss Hill, Liberty County; the large pine hardwood forest near Holly Grove, Segno and along certain parts of nearby Big Sandy Creek; the Neches River bottoms, and other areas (Bonney, 1969).

I am not sure that publicity of endangered species such as the ivory-billed woodpecker enhances their chance for survival. A similar line of reasoning might apply to the insectivorous plants and other biological novelties that are indigenous to the Big Thicket. One rare species is Ruthven's pine snake, *Pituophis melanoleucus ruthveni*. At this writing I have in my possession the 19th of this form known in the world. Two of these snakes have been collected in Polk County (Smith and Kennedy, 1951; Kennedy, MS) and another in Hardin County.

The publications of McCarley (1959), mammals; Peterson (1960), birds; Brown (1950), Kennedy (1964, MS), amphibians and reptiles; McLeod (1967), plants, contain information on the biology and kinds of plants and animals that occur within the Big Thicket.

Let me make a little closing comment, if I might, Senator. How regrettable it will be when it becomes necessary to take a tour to see a tree. The issue of this decade is whether man can induce in his societies a cultural ethic that governs men to live in harmony with themselves, their fellow man and their environment. This committee has an opportunity to assist in inducing that cultural mutation by reserving a singular part of the environment of Texas for those now living and those yet to come. Urban man may then be able to see, to study and to enjoy but not destroy, what is the natural legacy of all men. I ask your support.

(The references referred to in Dr. Kennedy's statement follow:)

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COLLEGE STATION, TEX.,
April 24, 1970.

RESOLUTION FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS, CONCERNING A BIG THICKET NATIONAL AREA, IN TEXAS

Whereas the Southwestern Association of Naturalists (SWAN), at its annual meeting on 18 April, 1969, at Tempe, Arizona, adopted a resolution, and its appended policy statement, concerning a Big Thicket National Area, in Texas, and

Whereas a Field Inspection and hearings by the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is scheduled concerning this area and proposal on 5 June, 1970; Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the membership of SWAN, that it reaffirm its support of this proposal as outlined by its 1969 resolution; and

That the President and the Secretary of SWAN submit copies of this resolution to the chairmen of the Senate Committee and Subcommittee considering this bill (S.4), to Senator Yarborough, of Texas, to the corresponding chairmen of the House of Representatives, to the Governor of Texas, and to such other organizations and individuals as may express concern with this project.

THEODORE M. SPERRY, *Chairman*,
SWAN Conservation Committee.

FISHES AND FISH-LIKE VERTEBRATES OF CLEAR FORK CREEK HEADWATERS,
PROPOSED CLEAR FORK BOG UNIT OF BIG THICKET NATIONAL PARK, TEX.—A
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING BIG THICKET NATIONAL PARK IN
TEXAS

(By Profs. Frederick R. Gehlbach and Harley W. Reno,
Department of Biology, Baylor University)

The following list of species comprises a highly significant aquatic vertebrate community in that (1) the three species of aquatic salamanders do not occur together elsewhere in the same kind of microhabitat (2) the level of generic diversification among all forms is high (3) species diversity is quite high, i.e. relatively few individuals per species are present, and all species are represented by nearly equal numbers of individuals, indicating that the community is quite stable and represents a "climax" ecological situation.

Because of these significant features, we support inclusion of Clear Fork Bog within a Big Thicket National Park and request preservation of this area, together with the Clear Fork Creek headwaters, as a scientific study resource. If available to future generations of biologists as an example of a diverse, climax, aquatic vertebrate community, we will then have something against which to measure man's simplifying influence on streams through pollution, dam-building, and similar activities.

SEMI-AQUATIC SALAMANDERS

Desmognathus auriculatus, Southern Dusky Salamander (larvae only present)
Eurycea quadridigitata, Dwarf Salamander (larvae only present)

AQUATIC SALAMANDERS

Amphiuma means, Congo Eel
Necturus beyeri, Gulf Coast Mudpuppy
Siren intermedia, Lesser Siren

AGNATHS

Ichthyomyzon gagei, Eastern Brook Lamprey

FISHES

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Esox americanus</i> , Redfin Pickerel | <i>Aphredoderus sayanus</i> , Pirate Perch |
| <i>Notropis fumeus</i> , Ribbon Shiner | <i>Micropterus punctulatus</i> , Spotted Bass |
| <i>Notropis atrocaudalis</i> , Blackspot Shiner | <i>Lepomis macrochirus</i> , Bluegill |
| <i>Opsopoeodus emiliae</i> , Bluntnose Minnow | <i>Lepomis megalotis</i> , Longear Sunfish |
| <i>Ictalurus natalis</i> , Yellow Bullhead | <i>Lepomis punctatus</i> , Spotted Sunfish |
| <i>Noturus gyrinus</i> , Tadpole Madtom | <i>Elassoma zonatum</i> , Banded Pygmy Sunfish |
| <i>Fundulus olivaceus</i> , Blackspotted Topminnow | <i>Percina sciera</i> , Dusky Darter |
| <i>Fundulus notatus</i> , Blackstripe Topminnow | <i>Etheostoma proeliare</i> , Cypress Darter |
| | <i>Etheostoma chlorosomum</i> , Bluntnose Darter |

Senator BIBLE. Dr. Kennedy, that is a very beautifully written statement, and very effectively given. I highly commend you for it. Thank you very much.

Dr. KENNEDY. Could I have one moment, Senator Bible?

Senator BIBLE. Certainly.

Dr. KENNEDY. Could I share the 19th known individual *Pituophis melanoleucus ruthveni* with you?

Senator BIBLE. Right here?

Dr. KENNEDY. Yes.

Senator BIBLE. That will be a good time to take a recess. So it is now 11:15 and we will be in recess. Who are we going to look at?

Dr. KENNEDY. Could we look at it right now? I have it right here. It will take 1 minute of your time.

(Short recess.)

Senator BIBLE. The hearing will come to order.

What's the name of the Kennedy snake again?

Dr. KENNEDY. This is Ruthven's Pine Snake. It was described by, I believe Miss Stull in 1939 or 1940 if memory serves me correctly, and named in honor of Ruthven.

Senator BIBLE. Ruthven's snake—I will long remember this hearing. I have been approached my many types of missiles but it is the first time I had a Ruthven snake hissing. So we appreciate your testimony. Senator Yarborough has one question.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Dr. Kennedy, this statement of yours that 200,000 acres should be included in the Big Thicket National Park, I agree with you, but my bill is a compromise bill which I thought was more realistic. Secretary Hickel, when he looked at it Wednesday of this week, said he thought it ought to be 300,000. I agree with him and agree with you. I just state we have been working on this for years and I have only made this 100,000-acre proposal hoping that that is modest enough, and knowing how long it took to get the money to create the Padre Island—and it took 8 years to get the money through the Appropriations Committee—once you create a park unless you get the money to pay for it it might just as well not have been established.

I appreciate your testimony. One other statement which you have made I certainly agree with, having grown up in east Texas 1 mile from the Neches River, having lived there until 24 years of age, where on page 6 you say, "I am not sure the publicity of endangered species such as the ivory-billed woodpecker enhances their chance for survival." That information was originally released through the Interior Department, but I have commented on it many times. I personally would never have released and made it public, but once it got published all over the country, I have used that as a basis for creating the point. But being an east Texan, and my people having lived there about 125 years and I know the people as well as the habitat, I realize that publicity is not helping the chance of survival of that great bird if it is there.

Dr. KENNEDY. I am deeply grateful for your efforts on behalf of the thicket, and in belief of the State of Texas, Senator Yarborough. I think your work and your record is just one of the singular things that we have right now.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you very much.

Dr. KENNEDY. I would also like to say this. I am very sincere about this, I think we have to reverse the trend in this country against destruction and set out on a new trend of construction, and if we could stop spending \$2 billion a month on the war in South Vietnam we could buy 300,000 acres in the Big Thicket of Texas. That is the kind of thing we need to do. [Applause.]

Senator BIBLE. We are not here trying to settle the Vietnam war. We want to get out as soon as possible. I appreciate your testimony, Dr. Kennedy, and trust that you and the snake have a happy return.

Dr. KENNEDY. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. The next witness is Mr. Arthur Temple, president of the Temple Industries.

STATEMENT OF ARTHUR TEMPLE, PRESIDENT, TEMPLE
INDUSTRIES

Mr. TEMPLE. Thank you, Mr. Bible. It is kind of tough to follow a snake act.

Senator BIBLE. He is a tough fellow for a Senator to stay on top of. You go right ahead.

Mr. TEMPLE. My name is Arthur Temple. I am president of Temple Industries, Diboll, Tex.

I will try to be brief, and to avoid being redundant.

It is no news to those of us who own land in east Texas that there are isolated areas of botanical significance; that there are certain areas which should be preserved to protect their unique environmental characteristics. It is our position that these can be adequately protected and/or displayed within the 35,500 acres in the proposed concept.

It was nearly 3 years ago that we first met with a representative of the Department of the Interior to hear the preliminary proposal for a national monument now known as the 35,500-acre String of Pearls.

In the spirit of cooperation, we enthusiastically endorsed Interior's proposal.

We immediately ceased cutting any timber in the prescribed area, until definite boundaries could be determined, and to this day have not cut another tree. I want to make that clear and get it in the record because we of the timber industry have been very unfairly singled out. Now it is true, I think it could be true, that some of the smaller elements, or independent landowners, not identified with the larger ones, have perhaps done the things that I heard mentioned here and in the press. That is entirely possible. I know what our company has done. We have not cut one tree in spite of the fact that it was necessary to shut down a rather large operation and discontinue the entire hardwood operation in our business. That was a hard decision because it also meant we would close down the hardwood mill at Pineland, Tex., just north of the area we are talking about, Senator.

It was only after carefully weighing the true aesthetic value of the 3,000 acres of company land involved, which is the Neches Bottom area, and I want to tell you that is a magnificent shoreline largely untouched, one part of it we had begun to harvest when this conversation took place, and the remainder has never had a saw in it, and I really think it may be the only thing of that sort in this entire South. I don't believe there is a tract that large that can truthfully be called virgin, magnificent specimens, so we weighed that against the significant economic dislocation and its effect on our employees at Pineland that we agreed to terminate our hardwood operation. I claim the moratorium on cutting by the timber companies, not only ours but the major ones who have been more or less the scapegoats of this whole discussion was an unprecedented demonstration of good corporate citizenship and conservation leadership.

Senator BIBLE. I commend you for the action that you took. I went through the battle of the Redwoods and I know what that was and we had to go to court to get an injunction and I appreciate the voluntary spirit which you have recited.

Proceed.

Mr. TEMPLE. This was done before we were even requested to do it. At the initial contact the Interior said this was a good thing.

Senator BIBLE. I understand.

Mr. TEMPLE. This was done in order to study the plan.

Furthermore, I would like to point out this is not the first time that our company and other companies like us were asked to give up company-owned timberlands in east Texas. More than 14,500 acres have been appropriated by the Federal Government in the last 10 years, from our company alone, primarily for Lake Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend Reservoir, and I might say we endorsed those thoroughly.

Our company does recognize its social responsibilities. But let me also state, we have a very real responsibility to the more than 3,000 men and women employed by our company economically involved.

Senator BIBLE. You have 3,000 men employed by your company now?

Mr. TEMPLE. Right.

I believe I am correct in saying that the String of Pearls will take the only tract of land we own, which is involved in any of the plans, regardless of size. We expect to sell this land to the Government under any of these plans. Therefore, I feel that our arguments for the 35,500 acre park should be accepted as unselfish in nature because we have nothing more to lose if you want to make it 300,000 acres.

My company has been in east Texas for more than 75 years. We have selectively harvested and reharvested our timberlands during these many decades. Such selective harvests do not do violence to the environment.

The pine forests of all east Texas represent one of the great natural resources of the region and I would like to underscore a renewable resource.

The real question before us, as you said, Senator Bible, is how much land area are we talking about, but I say the request before us is how much land area do you properly lock up for the preservation of one azalea, one species of azalea, that to any but a highly skilled botanist is really undistinguishable from hundreds of other varieties that exist throughout the southern States, or an orchid. The question is how much.

Withdrawal of an additional 100,000 acres of timberland, possessing the same esthetic or botanical values, does not, in my view, support the basic needs or desires of the national wilderness preservation system, or the stated objective of the National Park Service.

If increased recreation needs are important, and I think they are tremendously important, I want to make that perfectly clear. It just makes commonsense for those agencies involved to develop fully the existing up to 600,000 acres of federally owned timberland in east Texas, and particularly, to exploit the recreation potential of Toledo Bend Reservoir and Lake Sam Rayburn, where thousands of these Government-owned acres are located, serving the same population you are discussing here today.

The ecological balance on this planet is a fragile thing, but for what it is worth, most of us are also painfully aware that our economic balance too often teeters on the same precipice, and I refer to our com-

pany's. I can't emphasize too greatly the obligation all of us must accept to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number when we determine the size of the Big Thicket National Monument.

In this day of intense competition for the budget dollar in the Nation to satisfy urgent social needs in this country, and there are many, I submit that it would be unthinkable to spend the huge sum needed to acquire more land than can be properly used as a botanical laboratory or preserve in this location having 600,000 acres of far more beautiful recreational land in the area just north of this and immediately north of it.

I believe almost anyone knowledgeable in this area, intimately knowledgeable of it, will agree that the recreational potential of the Government-owned lands adjacent to Rayburn and Toledo Bend Lakes far exceeds that proposed in the larger monument concept. These sites are magnificent, up on those lakes, and more suited to recreational development. Can't we spend the recreational money available better there? In addition, I seriously want to call attention to and raise the question, of the compatibility of recreation and the thought of a botanical preserve both of which I think are important, located in the same area, because the pure friction seems to me to make it difficult to preserve the integrity of the botanical area.

The decision you reach after weighing the testimony presented today will affect the future livelihood of thousands of people in east Texas.

In short—

(1) Let's protect those areas that have true botanical significance as proposed in the String of Pearls Monument.

(2) Let's spend available recreation dollars presently owned which are far more desirable for recreation on the Government lands around Toledo Bend and Lake Sam Rayburn. I hope you are familiar with them.

Senator BIBLE. I am not.

Mr. TEMPLE. To give you an idea, they are located in these forests; one is 135,000 acres of surface acres, which is a right smart amount of water, and the other is 35,000 acres, magnificent lakes, the recreational area would be fantastic around it, and we can't get the money properly to do it.

Senator BIBLE. I will ask the Park Service to take a look at it.

Mr. TEMPLE. I hope you would.

(3) Let's work together aggressively for, instead of one being against this and against that, let's work together for a common-sense program to protect our botanical treasure and at the same time develop our tourist and recreational potential each in its proper location.

My company has cooperated aggressively, as I have said. We will continue to do so. We think it is important, but we do not think that some of the people who advocate size have really thought the thing out and are really acquainted with the area and the conflicts that will occur. We think the same thing can be done with presently owned lands, and I might add, when I hear, and I am being a little bit facetious I guess, but when I hear our good city brothers from Houston, Austin, Dallas and around come down and tell us how we have messed up this countryside, we rural people, I can't help but wonder who

me sed up those damned cities they are trying to escape from in our terribly denuded forests. [Applause.]

Senator BIBLE. Mr. Temple, just return to the witness chair.

I think you make a good point, and I have handled it before, and I think the people most enthusiastic about preserving an area and having some open space and goodness knows what else, are people from another State and people trying to escape that city. I have seen that in the length and breadth of the country. They don't carve out from their own area but try to take it from somebody else who has it. This is one of the problems we have.

I think you made a very fine presentation and you have made some good points and you can rest assured I am going to check into it specifically.

I have no special questions to ask of you. I understand your viewpoint.

Senator Yarborough?

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Temple, I want to commend you for voluntarily at great cost to yourself stopping cutting the virgin hardwood area. People tell me it is very doubtful that you find any virgin pines in east Texas, but over in the Neches River flood plain, and you offered to make that available when the Government comes to buy. It is a very generous thing for you to do. There is no law which prevents you from cutting it. I think it was a very patriotic act, and I want to commend you for that. I know of other things you have done in an enlightened way, such as your supporting the public library at Diboll where your big plants are. That meant more taxes for you, either last year or the year before, but it is the best public library for the population of east Texas.

I know you support the creation of that new junior college in Diboll and that meant more taxes for all of your plants there. In Angelina County, I know of many great public things you have done. I don't rightly agree with you about the size of this park, but I want to commend you for so many fine acts I know you have done, including saving virgin timber and hardwoods on that plain.

Mr. TEMPLE. Thank you.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you.

Mr. TEMPLE. May I have 1 minute?

Senator BIBLE. Go right ahead.

Mr. TEMPLE. Senator Yarborough and I agree on 99.44 percent of everything, this happens to be one thing we are a little apart. We agree in general but we are apart on size. So that is not too bad.

But, the people that don't really understand the thing look at as almost criminal the denuding of a forest area by someone who has short range viewpoints, but they are not part of the—the large timber owners, I really honestly think I can say this of all of them, are really trying carefully to be good citizens, more so than I have seen in other areas. I know we are, but I will defend them by saying what applies to us applies to the others just as well.

Now these lands have more deer, they have more alligators, now I stay in the woods a lot of the time—they have more alligators in spite of what you hear, they have more squirrels, they have more racoons, they have more possum, and they have more chicken snakes that people think up names for. [Laughter.]

Senator BIBLE. Is Dr. Kennedy still here?

Mr. TEMPLE. I am not, sure not, going to get into a argument with him, he has got the words. But seriously, we have got more of these than there were back in my earlier days in the woods, which were in the early thirties.

Now, everything that Senator Yarborough says is true, but it is also true today, and it is true in the lands we are harvesting regularly, believe me.

Now to prove it I have a letter in my file about 5 years ago from a very good friend of mine who is in politics nationally, held a family reunion at one of our forests, and had a nice time, and I believe I am quoting the letter I got afterward correctly when he said that it was almost a religious experience to be in the beautiful forest with the magnificent big trees and so forth, you know what I am saying is these forests are great.

Now I have heard a lot of inaccuracies here today and I don't want to quarrel with them, but I would like to suggest that some people check a few of these things. I respect Dr. Bonney, but when he says that a thousand feet of virgin pine is as valuable as the virgin pine that has been raised in the second crop, he is mistaken. This is a fact I know.

Senator BIBLE. I say that is why we have hearings.

Mr. TEMPLE. I would like to leave it at that. I don't want to quarrel with anybody. I think a large virgin forest that is of mature trees is worth more than a forest with small trees, that have not been allowed to get large.

Senator BIBLE. You have been fine with us.

Mr. TEMPLE. Can I be excused, sir?

Senator BIBLE. You can.

Our next witness will be Mrs. Jud Collier, Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. Won't you please be seated?

STATEMENT OF MRS. JUD COLLIER, ON BEHALF OF THE TEXAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Mr. COLLIER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, Senator Yarborough, it is a privilege to be here and to have you in our great State, and having just come from the general federation convention with your wonderful president from your State there, I am going to leave a file with you which we just voted to yesterday and that is on wilderness from the general federation, which takes in what we are terming the Big Thicket as far as Texas is concerned.

I am representing my State president, Mrs. Shaper, who is with the general federation convention today and could not be here and we would like to tell you that our project for the State in her two terms, 2 years, has been the Big Thicket, preservation of the Big Thicket National Park of a hundred thousand acres.

We have over a hundred thousand women members who have worked very diligently during this time, and at least one-third or 900 of the clubs have had programs for the people to be acquainted with, and several thousand members and all have toured the Thicket, and incidentally, we had a part in the great program of preservation by the American Heritage Society who included the Big Thicket as one of

12 big preservation projects, and we are very happy that Texas won second place and to know that the Federation of Women's Clubs helped with the other groups in this great award, which shows national approval, we will say, of this project and preservation.

We have asked the cooperation of our sister federations and without trying to read this to you, I will leave this on the wilderness, but we think that this is quite important, and refer strictly to us.

Then I also have for the file which has just been found, I mean I had it in my file but didn't know we wanted it, the original resolution that was made in 1968, with all of the signatures for it, to it, for the Big Thicket project, and we will say that that, in my opinion, and ours, that this project is so important to the State, and to the whole United States because I will say there were 68 countries, national countries, outside countries, who were there at this convention and they understood and what it means for this wilderness project, as we call it, and one thing that it means we are so anxious to save what we call the last Garden of Eden in Texas, and I am sure in many other portions of the United States. I don't know whether they have any or not but this we consider is that important to the people of Texas, to the people of all the various points that have been mentioned which I won't take time to mention.

So, on behalf of our women of the State of Texas, we urge you to act immediately, if possible, on Senate bill 4.

How grateful we are to Senator Yarborough for his great leadership and what he has meant not only to preservation but everything else so far as that goes.

So we urge you, the Congress, to take action to save this ecological crossroads of North America, and thank you so.

(Mrs. Shaper's statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF MRS. HENRY F. SHAPER, PRESIDENT, THE TEXAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

(Presented by Mrs. Jud Collier, Big Thicket committee chairman)

At my inauguration in May 1968, as president of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, I set as my special project the preservation of 100,000 acres of the Big Thicket as a national area.

Our 100,000 members have worked diligently on this during my 2-years administration. At least one-third of our 900 clubs have had programs to acquaint their members with this unique area.

Several thousand individual members have written elected officials and have toured the Thicket.

We asked the cooperation of our sister federations in the other 49 States with good success.

On behalf of the women of this State and others, I urge you to act immediately to bring S. 4 to the floor of the Senate for speedy passage. The bulldozers and the chainsaws are busy destroying.

We look to Congress to save this ecological crossroads of North America!

Senator BIBLE. That is a splendid statement and all of the exhibits to which you refer I will have Mr. Hartung pick them up from you and they will be incorporated in full in the record.

(The exhibits referred to are in the Committee files.)

Mrs. COLLIER. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mrs. Collier mentioned one point and I have not heard it in the testimony yet. Even though the president of the

Big Thicket Association testified, I am afraid he is too modest to mention it. The American Heritage Award you referred to was a nationwide poll taken of things most vital to the American people.

Mrs. COLLIER. Pardon?

Senator YARBOROUGH. That was the nationwide poll taken of things, areas, most vital to the American people and in the nationwide poll the Big Thicket of Texas came second.

Mrs. COLLIER. Second, and we got \$10,000 for the Big Thicket Association.

Senator YARBOROUGH. The American Heritage Association gave the Big Thicket Association a \$10,000 award this year having won second place in this whole Nation of projects vital to the American people, correct?

Mrs. COLLIER. That is correct.

Senator BIBLE. It was not clear to me how Texas came in second. You usually came in first. But it is very clear in the record.

Mrs. COLLIER. Secretary Hickel, he had to come first, is from Alaska.

Senator BIBLE. I see, all right.

Mrs. COLLIER. But we are very proud of ourselves.

Senator BIBLE. Yes; I don't blame you. Thank you very much.

I have an impatient lawyer from New Orleans and I am taking him out of the general order of witnesses because he must return and get to court. Lawyers are the most impatient people I have ever seen, and being one myself, they always want to bang through. He told me he would only take 4 minutes and I am going to put the time clock on it. Mr. Futrell of Louisiana.

STATEMENT OF J. W. FUTRELL, CHAIRMAN, LOUISIANA SIERRA CLUB, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Mr. FUTRELL. Thank you, Senator Bible. I appreciate the opportunity to be heard this morning.

I am a practicing attorney in New Orleans, and I am chairman of the Louisiana Sierra Club group which is about a year old now, but which has 400 members in the city of New Orleans, and we are getting requests for applications at the rate of about a hundred a month, so we are a growing group over there and we are representing along with a revitalized Audubon Society in New Orleans which started up about a year and a half ago, the interest in conservation and the awakened ecological conscience in New Orleans.

I heard the reference to "escape America's crowded dead cities," or the dirty cities, or what have you. We have a lot of people coming to New Orleans to visit, and part of that is the desire for the diversity of life. I appreciate some of that because I love New Orleans. Sometimes just on a Saturday morning with the family we can have, it is almost like visiting, it is fun to visit New Orleans as a citizen there.

But I am a country boy from north Louisiana, and I appreciate some of the diversity of the woodlands in which I grew up and which I have seen destroyed in the last 10 or 15 years, and I am bringing you a report on Louisiana which lies right across the Sabine River, and which will be the population that will use the Big Thicket

National Park, along with the metropolitan areas of Houston and Beaumont.

I hear the statement that "size is not important. Let's have a string of pearls." I hear other remarks about the stewardship that industry has given, and before I came this morning, I speak only for the Sierra Club, but I spoke with the different staff personnel of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to prepare my statement for the committee so what I have are the firm facts here, and the commission personnel still do not know whether they will issue anything in the statement regarding, the State agency, regarding this.

During the day you undoubtedly, you undoubtedly have heard population estimates as to how the Texas gulf coast is going to grow. Well, right across the Sabine River, less than an hour from the proposed Big Thicket, you have Lake Charles which has grown from 15,000 to more than 75,000, 15,000 in 1940 to more than 75,000 now. You have the population of Louisiana which will increase to about 4,200,000 by 1980 during the next few years and with that population also becomes a dispersal of population so that our people such as myself have moved out of the woods of north Louisiana into a strip 10 miles, on a 10-mile border more or less of Interstate 10, it is Lake Charles, it is Lafayette, it is New Iberia, it is New Orleans, it is Baton Rouge—75 percent of the people live in this narrow strip in the counties along the gulf coast.

This is the population target area for the Big Thicket. What resource do these people have to a quality hardwood forest, and the message that I bring you this morning is the vanishing hardwoods forests of Louisiana, and these are the figures from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fishery Commission, and at the bottom of page 2 we quote that the area had been reduced from 5 million to 600,000 acres, 5,600,000 acres to 3,300,000 acres in 1961, that in this decade it has been decreased to 2,500,000 acres and that Louisiana hardwoods are being cleared at a rate of 111,000 acres a year. There is a table that goes county by county, parish by parish in the back of my statement and the reasons estimated that was given at Governor Winthrop Rockefeller's conference on the vanishing southern hardwoods this year that Louisiana hardwood forests would be stripped clear by 1990 and there seems to be no hope of reversal. The Commission is trying to buy scattered plots here and there, and it is succeeding somewhat in doing it.

If you are familiar with the horrible State finances of some States, and in Louisiana we have a really tragic, well, a really hard situation, with our State finances. We can't pay our teachers, we can't pay our schools, it is really a messed up thing, and conservation is at the bottom of the list. We have a Chevron oil spill, and that perhaps will destroy our Gulf estuaries, and the official comment is don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

But be that as it may, conservation is at the bottom of the list of priorities for the State.

Now the Commission is trying to buy these lots because it used to lease them and the most famous lease that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission ever had was the Singer tract which was leased from a northern railroad lumber company, and that was a 50-year lease,

and that lease expired in 1938 and the Commission sought another long-term lease, and the lease renewal was refused, as is their right under the law, and the timber was stripped, and one of the trees that was chopped down contained the last known nesting pair of ivory-billed woodpeckers in the country. It is said the ivory-bill has been spotted in the Big Thicket but the message we have that we carry to you from the Louisiana experience is that either you get this land in fee, you set it aside, and not a String of Pearls or the Big Thicket will go the way of the Singer tract, just the way that the hardwood forests of Louisiana have gone, and are going.

We also have, I could carry a message on our vanishing streams. We had a catalog of waterways that are left unspoiled, undredged in the State. The Wilderness Society has a report that was significant enough that the Wilderness Society featured it in its last bulletin, and what we now mostly have are drainage ditches. We have about 25 small stretches of bayou undredged and I can talk about quality recreation on Sam Rayburn Lake, 125,000 acres of lake to run your motorboat up and down, but a different type of recreation, diversity of recreation, is canoeing or a float trip on a free floating stream, and your Big Thicket National Park proposal gives you a chance to preserve some of the last free flowing streams in this area.

I will end with those facts except one last fact to cite and this is checking with our State Parks and Recreation Commission, and this is the Louisiana State Parks and Recreation Commission's plan, comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, 1970 to 1975, has a chapter on competing areas for quality recreation for the citizens of Louisiana and it lists three out-of-state areas, the Arkansas Ozarks, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and the Forest of the Neches bottom land, the Sabine over here, the East Texas forest of the Big Thicket area.

One last personal reason why I speak and why I have come from New Orleans this morning that reinforces the desirability of preserving the Naches bottom lands and the hardwood forests of the Big Thicket is that one of the functions that a National Park Service has is to teach people. The Everglades, I think, has had more than anything else to do with teaching people that a marsh is more than just a wasteland, something that should be used as a garbage dump. Other national parks have taught us the beauty of the desert like Seguro National Monument outside of Tucson. It could very well be that a national park dedicated to the southern hardwood such as Big Thicket could awaken the people of this area so that they can, the citizens of Louisiana might waken up and try to set some of these things aside for themselves.

But be that as it may, the Big Thicket National Park is a resource which is vanishing and we across the State line urge you to set it aside. [Applause.]

(Mr. Futrell's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF J. W. FUTRELL, CHAIRMAN, LOUISIANA SIERRA CLUB,
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

I am a practicing attorney residing in New Orleans, Louisiana, at 3323 Jefferson Avenue, with my office at 1800 National Bank of Commerce Building in that city. I am Chairman of the Louisiana Sierra Club Group which has 400 members in New Orleans. Our support for the establishment of a Big Thicket Na-

tional Park arises out of the realization that quality outdoor recreation sites are of significance to groups in the entire Gulf Coast area, and not just Texans.

During the day, the Committee will doubtless be presented with figures for estimated increase in population for Texas and the importance for the preservation of a remnant of this great forest for the people of the metropolitan Houston and the Beaumont-Port Arthur area. The trend toward a major population increase is also true of the Louisiana Gulf Coast area. Lake Charles, Louisiana, a city just an hour's drive from the Big Thicket, has grown from 15,000 in 1940 to an estimated 75,000. It is estimated that in the next 10 years, the population of Louisiana will increase by 20% or 770,000 more people, to more than 4 million. Recent years have seen a shift in population dispersal in Louisiana, and now 75% of all our people live in the parishes or counties bordering or just inland from the Gulf of Mexico, within a few hours drive of the Big Thicket. What access do our people have to a quality southern hardwood forest? What remains of the great bottomland hardwood forests in Louisiana?

OUR VANISHING HARDWOODS

The outlook for what is left of the hardwood forests in Louisiana is very discouraging. Gigantic land clearing operations for soybeans (whose cultivation there is made economically feasible only by Government price supports) have stripped hundreds of thousands of acres of hardwood forest with the concomitant loss of wildlife. The experience of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission Refuge Division with leasing stands of hardwood forest for wildlife preservation is tragic. One of its largest leases was the Singer Tract in north-eastern Louisiana. When the long term lease expired, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission tried to renew it. The renewal was refused and the entire forest was cleared. One of the trees which was chopped down contained the last known nesting pair of Ivory Billed Woodpeckers in the United States. Supposedly, the Ivory Bill has been spotted in the Big Thicket. Unless Congress takes action to preserve the Big Thicket, the Ivory Bills of the Big Thicket and the forests of the Big Thicket will go the way of the Singer Tract.

In north Louisiana, according to figures released by Richard K. Yancey, Assistant Director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, the bottomland hardwood region was once comprised of approximately 5,600,000 acres. By 1961, the total acreage remaining in hardwoods had diminished to 3,300,000 acres. In 1969, land-clearing operations had further reduced the acreage in hardwoods to 2,500,000 acres. This means that the hardwoods were being removed at a rate of 111,000 acres per year between 1962 and 1968. A table is attached showing the breakdown, parish by parish or county by county, in Louisiana, for the stripping of the hardwood forest.

The land clearing rate shows no sign of letting up. It is estimated that the hardwood forests of Louisiana will have, for all practical purposes, been eliminated by 1990.

Obviously, this is going to have a disastrous effect on forest game population, on hunting, and on outdoor recreation. The Louisiana experience shows the intense pressure on southern hardwood forests. Similar figures could be obtained for Arkansas and Mississippi.

Louisiana's Vanishing Streams:

As rapidly as our hardwood forests are being cleared, our streams and rivers are being altered even more rapidly by dredging and channelization as a result of the agricultural demand for quicker removal of water off the land. The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has catalogued the scenic rivers of Louisiana and stated that only a very few are left and that they are in jeopardy. The logs and stumps that shelter fish are gone along with the trees along the stream edge that offered shade and cooled the water. Cool and clear streams are being replaced by deep ditches with a shallow uniform flow rate, high water temperatures and a heavy silt load.

Once a free-flowing stream has been altered there is no bringing it back. Channelization and the impoundment of a stream destroys it for the fisherman and the wilderness user. One asks, is it not possible to save just a few of the free-flowing streams such as is proposed in the Big Thicket National Park Plan.

The Big Thicket area faces all of the dangers that the Louisiana forests and streams face; the danger of impoundment of its waters; the channelization of

its streams; the stripping of its forests. The failure to create a national monument or national park will condemn the Big Thicket to the fate of the Singer Tract and the vanishing hardwoods of the Gulf Coast states. Here is a chance to preserve an area that is unique not only in Texas, but in the Gulf South region. The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan—1970-1975 prepared by the Louisiana State Parks and Recreation Commission for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation lists the forests of the Big Thicket area, along with the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the Arkansas Ozarks, as one of the areas offering quality outdoor recreation in neighboring states for Louisiana citizens.

One last reason reinforces the desirability of preserving the Neches bottomlands and the hardwood forests of the Big Thicket. This bears on one of the functions that a national park serves. A national park is a yardstick to which we may repair to measure how far technology has taken us from our natural heritage. The preservation of the part of the Big Thicket may awaken the people of Louisiana to take action through their own State Park Commission to preserve some of their remaining hardwood forests before they are gone. That being the case, the proposed Big Thicket National Park takes on a significance for Louisiana other than just an opportunity for outdoor recreation in a neighboring state and serves as an example of what can and should be done.

NORTH LOUISIANA PARISHES ACREAGE IN BOTTOM LAND HARDWOODS AT VARIOUS PERIODS

| Parish | Total acreage in parish | Total acreage in parish that originally produced bottom land hardwoods ¹ | Acreage remaining in bottom land hardwoods | | | Bottom land hardwoods average land clearing in acreage per year, 1962-68 | Bottom land hardwoods remaining in 1985 based on 1962-68 average annual clearing rate |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---|--|------------------|------------------|--|---|
| | | | 1961 | 1964 | 1968 | | |
| Avoyelles..... | 528,600 | 500,474 | 303,300 | 290,700 | 241,480 | 8,831 | 91,353 |
| Bossier..... | 537,000 | 164,966 | 92,000 | 90,000 | 87,420 | 654 | 76,302 |
| Caddo..... | 568,300 | 209,203 | 74,800 | 72,800 | 68,497 | 900 | 53,197 |
| Caldwell..... | 552,000 | 144,691 | 114,800 | 109,800 | 97,800 | 2,427 | 56,541 |
| Catahoula..... | 467,200 | 362,632 | 280,200 | 262,200 | 138,200 | 20,284 | 94,169 |
| Concordia..... | 453,800 | 447,815 | 337,600 | 313,600 | 266,600 | 10,143 | 0 |
| De Soto..... | 570,900 | 51,610 | 44,750 | 44,100 | 40,283 | 638 | 29,437 |
| East Carroll..... | 275,800 | 274,562 | 124,200 | 109,200 | 90,000 | 4,886 | 6,938 |
| Franklin..... | 411,500 | 406,290 | 137,000 | 126,000 | 101,000 | 5,143 | 13,569 |
| Grant..... | 423,700 | 72,806 | 61,200 | 61,000 | 60,260 | 134 | 57,982 |
| La Salle..... | 408,300 | 94,003 | 121,350 | 121,000 | 118,260 | 441 | 110,763 |
| Madison..... | 423,700 | 421,168 | 274,800 | 244,800 | 216,800 | 8,285 | 201,955 |
| Morehouse..... | 512,700 | 468,720 | 217,000 | 187,000 | 128,742 | 12,608 | 0 |
| Natchitoches..... | 827,500 | 324,403 | 168,500 | 148,500 | 123,800 | 6,385 | 15,255 |
| Ouachita..... | 408,300 | 199,066 | 138,400 | 138,400 | 124,010 | 2,055 | 89,075 |
| Rapides..... | 842,200 | 353,894 | 181,358 | 173,600 | 160,969 | 3,198 | 106,603 |
| Red River..... | 264,300 | 120,730 | 56,100 | 54,000 | 44,760 | 1,620 | 17,220 |
| Richland..... | 368,600 | 361,437 | 148,000 | 142,000 | 102,000 | 6,571 | 0 |
| Tensas..... | 398,700 | 393,592 | 256,100 | 230,100 | 195,100 | 8,714 | 46,962 |
| West Carroll..... | 227,800 | 226,383 | 97,500 | 67,500 | 47,000 | 7,214 | 0 |
| Winn..... | 607,300 | 11,059 | 71,200 | 70,200 | 68,530 | 381 | 62,053 |
| Total..... | 10,078,200 | 5,627,494 | 3,300,158 | 3,056,500 | 2,521,511 | 111,235 | 1,129,374 |

¹ Lytle, S. A., and M. B. Sturjig, 1962, "General Soil Areas and Associated Soil Series Group of Louisiana," LSU Agriculture Experimental Station, Baton Rouge, La.

Source: "Our Vanishing Delta Hardwoods," by Richard K. Yancey, assistant director, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, in March-April Louisiana Conservationist.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

Now, we can do without the applause. I am very happy he came over from New Orleans.

Senator YARBOROUGH.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Futrell, in that Singer tract, I believe that is where the recordings were made of the ivory-billed woodpecker's call.

Mr. FUTRELL. That is right.

Senator YARBOROUGH. That is the only place there have been recordings. Before that, the track was destroyed.

Mr. FUTRELL. The birds were in the nest when the tree went down.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I just want to say that I appreciate the beauty of your forests, more now than I did some years ago. I slept a hundred nights consecutively on the ground on maneuvers in Louisiana in the wintertime in World War II and I know how those trees look from the bottom looking up.

Mr. FUTRELL. A paid vacation, Senator Yarborough.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Sorry they are gone.

Senator BIBLE. The next witness will be Mrs. William Hancock, Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, Austin, Tex. Mrs. Hancock.

We are very happy to have you with us.

STATEMENT OF MRS. WILLIAM C. X. HANCOCK, THE TEXAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Mrs. HANCOCK. Thank you.

Senator Yarborough, Senator Bible, I will make my testimony extremely brief because you have other ecological experts who have told you what the situation is.

It has been my pleasure to work with Mrs. Jud Collier and Mrs. Henry F. Shaper for the past 2 years watching the mounting interest of my fellow clubwomen.

Prior to May 1968 I had worked for this Big Thicket Park through the Audubon Society and Texas Ornithological Society.

In November 1967, since the word is already out, I can say this, my husband and I were taken into a private tract of land north and west of Kountze—exact location withheld at owner's request. There we watched a pair of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers feed for approximately 30 minutes. I am certain of this identification and add this as my 489th species of my life list.

I might mention that I am a life member of the American Ornithological Union and will be glad to defend my identification to anyone.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to leave here for the information of any of the other members of your committee who are not present copies not only of an article my husband and I did on the Big Thicket, about the project which the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs worked on for the past 2 years, which you will see on the back page.

(The article referred to is in the committee files.)

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much and I will read this with interest and I will take it back to Washington and share copies of it with all members of my committee.

Thank you very much, Mrs. Hancock.

Mrs. HANCOCK. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness will be Mr. Cecil Reid, Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas.

STATEMENT OF CECIL REID, SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS OF TEXAS

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman, I am Cecil Reid, executive director of the Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas whose home office is in Austin, Tex.

Our organization is comprised of 112 clubs and approximately 90,000 members with more than 4,600 sustaining members.

The members of the local units which make up the Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas are not all hunters and fishermen but all do have one common goal—and that is the conservation and management of our wildlife and those natural resources allied to it.

The Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas is a nonpolitical, nonprofit, private organization.

Our organization does support the policy of the Texas Forestry Association is that any proposal for a Big Thicket park, monument or recreational area not exceed 35,000 acres.

Mr. Chairman, the following is a quote from the 1968-69 Texas Almanac:

North of the upper coastal region are heavily wooded portions of East Texas including four national forests: Sam Houston National Forest (158,235 acres), Davy Crockett National Forest (161,556 acres), Angelina National Forest (154,389 acres), and Sabine National Forest (183,843 acres). The Big Thicket is a unique area of dense vegetation covering much of a number of southeast Texas counties.

I am still quoting from the Almanac—

There are excellent roads through it including U.S. Highways 59 and 287. Several miles of foot trails enable visitors to penetrate where autos cannot go in the Big Thicket Scenic Area of 1,130 acres in Sam Houston National Forest. This area was dedicated in 1963.

Texas' chief Indian reservation is located in the Big Thicket, in the eastern part of Polk County.

Members of the Alabama and Coushatta tribes, numbering more than 300, live on approximately 4,000 acres.

The point that should be considered here is that we now have 658,023 acres of forest lands in national forests located in 13 counties of east Texas.

Certainly with more than a half-million acres of national forests, the natural environment can be preserved, or restored if necessary, for posterity.

The timber industries of Texas, the stewards of the land, should be commended for their interest and efforts in conservation.

They have developed good management practices for timber production without abuse. In my opinion the timber people are the most practical conservationists in our State.

In my 30 years of conservation work in Texas, I have yet to see any person planting trees for reforestation who is making the recommendation that the Big Thicket National Park be of more than 30,000 acres.

In my opinion not any of these persons can claim ownership to any of the lands proposed to be included in the Big Thicket National Park.

Many fallow fields that once produced very poor agricultural crops are now producing good stands of timber.

The emotional fervor to set aside all our rivers, forest lands and other vast areas should be tempered by the realization that through good management the wave of new environmentalists, the older environmental-conservation groups, and industry can live together without taking all away from either.

We do believe that the recommendation by the National Forest Service to set aside 30,000 acres for the Big Thicket National Park is appropriate.

Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate having the opportunity to appear before your committee to express our views.

SENATOR BIBLE. I appreciate your statement very much. Thank you, sir.

Our next witness will be Mr. John L. Spinks, Jr., regional representative, National Audubon Society of Austin.

Mr. Spinks?

STATEMENT OF JOHN L. SPINKS, JR., SOUTHWEST REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

MR. SPINKS. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the National Audubon Society in support of the creation of a Big Thicket National Park. The questions before this subcommittee today are basically these: (1) Is the Big Thicket of sufficient significance as a unique natural and biological entity to merit national recognition, protection, and preservation, and, (2) how much of the Big Thicket should be saved?

Our answer to the first question is an unqualified "yes." The flora of the Big Thicket is a product of environmental influences favorable to the development of plant communities of unusual diversity. The scientific interest in such uncommon community associations is obvious, and the layman's experience of viewing forests elements common to the Florida Everglades and the Appalachian region within a common boundary is an opportunity unequaled in the United States. The variety and distribution of plants, the water systems, all afford habitats favorable to heterogeneous fauna of interest equal or greater to that of the forest types. The Big Thicket represents a portion of this country to be cherished, a living part of our history which cannot be duplicated nor reconstructed in a museum's diorama.

It is our contention that the Big Thicket does indeed qualify as an area of national importance, and deserves the immediate attention of the Congress to insure its future existence.

The second question, that of the size of the area to be given national status, is of controversy. We recommend that an area be obtained of sufficient size to guarantee the integrity of the ecosystem which is the Big Thicket; that this area offer facilities for high-density recreational activities; and, that natural areas of highest quality be protected in an unspoiled condition and subject to minimal development compatible with their preservation.

To meet these objectives, it is necessary to include as much of the remaining Big Thicket as possible under the management of a comprehensive plan. The Big Thicket cannot be represented by a fragmentation of small portions surrounded by an esthetic void. The "string of pearls" concept loses its glamorous connotation when the pearls are joined by paper clips and the gown they adorn is fashioned from discarded paper sacks.

The unique specimen areas can survive only if a buffer zone surrounds them in which maximum environmental conservation is practiced.

Recreational demands and other manmade developments can be and should be accommodated outside the environmental zone and unique areas.

In conclusion, it is well to focus on the most critical issue in determining the fate of the Big Thicket. This issue is time, because with each day there is less to be saved. Much of Texas can now boast of its array of commercial enterprise, but such development is not always pleasing to the eye, nose, or soul of man. We respectfully request that this subcommittee report favorably on Senator Yarborough's bill to establish a Big Thicket National Park, and urge that every effort be made to expedite this matter in Congress. As a nation we are most sensitive to the label of the "Ugly American"; when contemplating a future when the Big Thicket is represented by impressive stumps where trees once stood, by a Neches River which contributes only to the water supply for industry lining its banks, one can only hope that our next uncomplimentary title will not be the "Ugly America."

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much and I appreciate your coming. A very fine statement, Mr. Spinks. I appreciate it.

Our next witness is Mr. Jim Webster, Kirby Lumber Corp., Houston. Mr. Webster.

STATEMENT OF JAMES B. WEBSTER, MANAGER—TAXES, KIRBY LUMBER CORP., HOUSTON, TEX.

Mr. WEBSTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am Jim Webster, manager of taxes for Kirby Lumber Corp., headquartered in Houston, Tex.

Kirby, manufacturer of lumber and plywood, owns about 55,000 acres of timberland in the area in question.

Like other members of the Texas Forestry Association, we support the idea of its totaling not more than 35,000.

These pearls should consist of examples of unique specimen areas, if such exist.

If an area is truly unique and so described by qualified ecologists, it is well to preserve a sample of it. However, it should be reiterated again by me here, I think, that these areas are not now virgin, and it is doubtful that the continued management of the areas by the owners like ourselves who have already looked after the land for 50 to 75 years, is going to radically change this makeup.

I note that the development of an environmental conservation zone in the area has been proposed. This proposal raises the obvious question of whose concept of conservation is to be followed. That system followed by the U.S. Forestry Service was condemned by the various preservation groups in their opposition to the Natural Timber Supply Act of 1969. And the major private timber landowners like Kirby practice apparently satisfactory multipurpose management on their land because they have to do so in order to survive.

Like the other large owners, we employ skilled environmental managers—foresters, if you will—to insure that our forests are conserved. After all, as Dean Serman said in his forest industry affairs letter of April 24, " * * * between the Forest Service, BLM, and forest industry are employed an estimated 80 percent of the trained ecologists in the world."

Some proponents of a large national park have proposed that the banks of selected "rivers and streams" must be preserved in some way

to prevent the presumably "evil landowners" from despoiling them. And yet the present esthetically desirable condition of these same stream banks is generally the result of their ownership by concerned timberland owners.

Kirby has for several years restricted all cutting 100 feet deep on 112 miles of streambanks in the so-called Big Thicket area in 1966; this restriction was expanded by 58 additional miles in 1969; as a result, we now have 170 miles of streambanks on which we allow no cutting 100 feet deep and only allow selective cutting on the second hundred feet away from the streambank. Thus, we pay ad valorem taxes each year on 2,060 acres from which we derive no benefit of any kind except that provided by the public's esthetic pleasure and on a second 2,060 acres from which we derive only limited economic benefit.

It has been proposed that one-half mile of "natural forest" should be left untouched on each side of a rather extensive highway network. Such action, if taken, would amount to the loss of timber production on 640 acres in each highway mile—and to what end? The areas are already there to be seen and what undesirable changes are likely to take place if the areas are not placed in a park?

A subdividing is always mentioned. Well, 640 acres, as near as I could figure it, would provide enough homesites for a minimum of 1,920 homes and 7,680 residents—at four per home—enough for a small town on each mile of highway. The absurdity of the idea is obvious. The pressure to remove these lands from managed, economic timber production simply does not exist, in my opinion.

The forest is already at the roadside for the casual automobile-riding tourist to see, and many other areas exist for exploration by the few dedicated naturalists willing to endure heat, humidity, ticks, redbugs, mosquitoes, deerflies, and snakes to find the Big Thicket's special attractions.

As for "recreational facilities," the U.S. Forest Service, the Corps of Engineers, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the forest industries are already providing a great many recreational facilities in southeast Texas, and more will be offered as the need arises.

Kirby alone provides 31,000 acres of land open to the public without charge for its fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, and general outdoor recreation pleasure (see attached Kirby's Annual Sportsman's Guide); another 500,000 acres of our land is either open to the public without being promoted as such or leased to more than 80 "hunting clubs" or leased to several hundred individual "campsite leases"; we estimate that a minimum of 140,000 recreational man-trips were made onto our holdings by the general public in 1969 exclusive of any visits by outing groups such as the Sierra Club; based on data supplied by the State and Federal Governments, we estimate these visits generated some \$1,200,000 in revenue in the economy of southeast Texas during the year.

I admit the forest industry does a poor job of "telling its story" to the public and always has. Consequently, we now have the second and, perhaps, a third generation of people who believe in the "Gospel according to Edna Ferber" insofar as the industry is concerned.

These same misinformed people apparently feel that the forest is a static thing which will remain unchanged if only it is never touched

by the saw or the ax. That idea, of course, is not true. Aside from fire, disease, and storm damage to the Big Thicket, the timberland owners in the area have had a "tight fight with a short stick" to try to "stay even with the board" battling depredations by the southern pine beetle.

In these operations we are talking about, in the last 7 years my company has spent \$300,000 combating the southern pine beetle in that area, and this amount was more than equaled, I am sure, by the expenditure of other private, State and Federal moneys in combating the problem in the same area.

The industry has been remiss in not refuting for the public the unfortunate statement by Charles Boyd of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that a pine plantation is a "biological desert." When I asked him about that recently, he said he was referring to "big plantations," not "small" ones.

Apparently Kirby does not have any "big plantations," since our largest contains 3,178 acres and has always supported game animals such as deer; it used to support game birds but now is thick enough so that it supports more squirrels than game birds.

I think we have been remiss in not telling the public that a young, vigorous, well-managed forest produces 4 tons of oxygen per acre per year in excess of its needs; this is enough to supply the needs of 12 humans.

By comparison, the mature or overmature forest does not release net oxygen into the air, since the limited amount which is produced is consumed by the oxidizing process of decay. For thousands of years, nature produced the vigorous young forest by destroying the old forest by acts of God. With the present expanding population, it seems to me we can no longer afford to let nature replace the old with the new in large areas any more than we can afford to let nature maintain a population balance through smallpox epidemics.

According to our best estimate, Kirby generates about \$9 million in revenue per year in the economy of east Texas. The proposed 100,000 acre park represents about 20 percent of the area it takes to generate this \$9 million revenue flow. Thus, it follows that such a large park would reduce the flow of revenue in the area by about \$1,800,000 per annum.

Therefore, to be financially beneficial to southeast Texas, a 100,000-acre Big Thicket National Park would have to generate substantially more revenue each year than the approximately \$2 million lost by its development. This we do not believe it can do.

I would like to add here, also that a 100,000-acre park, in answer to your question, Senator Bible, would cost about three times as much as a 35,000-acre State park.

Senator BIBLE. I am sure that would come out that way and I appreciate it.

Mr. WEBSTER. According to the forecasts we read, the South must double the production of wood fiber by the year 2000—and this production must come from the small landowner who owns 70 percent of the total timberland area in the South and who is not now practicing good forest land management. I feel that if the issue at this hearing is conservation, the Federal Government can best help by supporting the

industry's efforts to develop the third forest (see attached publication, "The South's Third Forest") on these unmanaged timberlands; if the issue here is preservation, then please support the preservation of small unique specimen areas like the proposed pearls for those who wish to set examples of untouched nature—untouched except by fire, insects, disease, storms, et cetera—and let the trained forest manager do the job he knows best on the remaining areas to the benefit of all the people.

We urge that the committee support the development of a Big Thicket National Monument approximately 35,000 acres in size and containing unique specimen areas.

Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. I very much appreciate your appearance and your very frank appraisal in your statement of your position, and the two bulletins that have been attached to your statement, Kirby's Annual Sportsman Guide and the South's Third Forest will both be incorporated by reference so that they can be read in connection with the statement which you have given, and a very fine statement it is.

(The material referred to are in the committee files.)

I appreciate your being here this morning. I have no questions of you. Senator Yarborough?

Senator YARBOROUGH. No questions.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mr. Webster.

Our next witness will be Prof. Peter Gunter, Department of Philosophy, North Texas State University, Denton, Tex.

Professor Gunter.

STATEMENT OF PROF. PETER GUNTER, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, NORTH TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, DENTON, TEX.

Professor GUNTER. Senator Bible and Senator Yarborough, ladies and gentlemen, before coming here today I wracked my brains in hopes that I might be able to say something that has not been said before or would not be said by the other witnesses. As things have turned out, perhaps I may have succeeded.

Th title of this short talk is "The Big Thicket: Dismantling an Ecological Laboratory."

A recent Department of the Interior study of the Big Thicket concludes:

The forest contains elements common to the Florida Everglades, the Okefenokee Swamp, the Appalachian region, the piedmont forests, and the large open woodland of the coastal plains. Some large areas resemble tropical jungles in the Mexican states of Tamaulipas and Vera Cruz.¹

If one adds to this conclusion the fact that the Thicket contains both western and eastern vegetation, and that its plant and animal life are often different enough from near relatives found elsewhere to constitute new species and subspecies,² he begins to understand the region's

¹ Caleb Pirtle III, "The Fight To Save Our Land and Heritage," Southern Living, May 1970, p. 48.

² A recent example of an animal species now virtually unique to the Thicket is the red wolf (*Canis rufus*) which has been found along the coastal regions of the western Louisiana and upper Texas coasts, including Liberty County, which contains Big Thicket areas. The red wolf, which has only recently been accorded the status of a distinct species, was placed on the rare and endangered list of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in January 1965. Since then its numbers have declined notably. (Cf. Ronald M. Nowak, "Report on the Red Wolf," *Defenders of Wildlife News*, V. 45, No. 1, January-March, 1970, pp. 82-94.)

variety. If one also realizes that the Thicket contains some of the world's largest trees in their species and some of the densest, most impenetrable forest in the northern hemisphere, he is on his way to grasping the sheer abundance of its life forms.

To some, this very complexity is a stumbling block. If you cannot tell me definitely all about the Thicket, they ask, how can you expect me to evaluate it? And why do you want me to help save it? Such questions are understandable. If all the articles, talks, stories and books written about the Big Thicket were lain end to end, they would not reach an agreement. No two maps of the Thicket agree; no two definitions of it are the same. To many persons, including myself, however, this is not a stumbling block, but an occasion for rejoicing. For it demonstrates the extreme many-sided variety and the biological richness of the Big Thicket. And the Thicket's variety and richness constitute the strongest argument for its preservation.

I would like now to outline the many-sidedness of the Big Thicket in terms of its value for scientific research. I would like to preface this outline, however, with a few pointed remarks.

Probably few of us have ever seen a soil shredder.

Lumber companies now use it on semicleared land to destroy not only stumps, vines, grasses and flowers above the ground but all root networks from 3 to 4 feet below the surface. The remains are then planted in endless rows of pulp pines—minus hardwoods, flowers, vines, bushes, ferns and all the birds and wild animals that depend on a mixed ecology.

In the wake of a soil shredder biological diversity is vanquished, sheer monotony reigns. But biological monotony is as dangerous as it is unesthetic. When the complexity of an ecosystem is reduced, its ability to survive is diminished. A pine forest of a single species is a prime target for insect and bacterial diseases, which may strike suddenly and explosively. And when the pines are gone, what is left? You guess it; the soil shredder.³

I do not mean to single out the soil shredder as if it were the only technological disaster confronting our woodlands. A bulldozer can accomplish almost the same feats as a soil shredder and almost as quickly. So can even simpler technologies.

Recently, lumber companies have sent men into the Big Thicket with orders to girdle every hardwood tree on their lands. This includes hardwoods in swamps, creekbeds, sloughs, lowlands of every description, where pine trees cannot ever grow.

The motive for such policies cannot be simply the desire to produce more pulp pine. I leave it to you to infer what the motive must be.

The point of these remarks is simple enough. It is not only that the Big Thicket is now being timbered. Its richness, diversity, and uniqueness are now being totally obliterated; root and branch. It is

³ Sheer population growth can accomplish the same results as soil-shredders and tree girdlers. Demographers conjecture that by the year 2000 there will be a city from San Antonio through Dallas-Fort Worth to Denton. No less stunning population estimates have been made for the Texas Gulf Coast from Houston-Galveston to Beaumont. The pressure of this growth is already beginning to affect the Big Thicket. There are now at least 15 vacation subdivisions in the Thicket. (According to a pamphlet published by the Wiggins Land Co., 304 North Washington, Livingston, Tex. 77351, in Spring of 1970.) There will be hundreds more in another 30 years, unless something is done to forestall them. Red flag subdivisions will certainly complete, if they are allowed to, what the chain-saw and the land-shredder began.

not just that its trees are being cut. Its esthetic qualities, its scientific values, are being cut to zero, quite needlessly. Sometimes I have thought that this was being done on purpose.

The lumber people say it is not, and I will accept their say-so.

As a philosopher and historian of ideas I am sometimes drawn to ponder just why Western man should have allowed himself so ruthlessly and so mindlessly to maul his natural environment. There is no single explanation, I am sure; but part of the explanation, I am convinced, lies in our failure to pay sufficient attention to living things. Since the time of Galileo and Descartes we have concentrated our attention on the physical and chemical world, partly at the expense and largely to the exclusion of the "biosphere" upon which our existence so precariously depends.

Indeed, even when we have studied the intricate, delicately balanced web of life we have tended to look on the living organism as just another chemical system, without an intrinsic dignity of its own.

The point of all this is as follows: We have awakened to our environmental crisis only to discover that we do not know enough about biological systems to cope with them.

Our environmental peril is matched only by our environmental ignorance. We know that a slight change at one point in an ecosystem may produce a total and unexpected change elsewhere else, and that a general transformation in an ecosystem may affect its particular, seemingly isolated subregions in disturbing ways. And we know that failure to study and heed such dynamic interrelations in the past has led to our present severe problems. And we know also that we need to know more—much more—about our long-neglected natural environment if we are to survive as a species and a civilization.

The latter statement cannot be repeated too often. We need to know more—much more—about our natural environment. If so, the following statement also bears repeating: We can learn more about our natural environment from the Big Thicket than than any area of comparable size in the United States.

The Thicket contains a majority of the botanical ecosystems of the Southeastern United States, as well as many that flourish elsewhere, from cypress swamps to piney hills to prairies to pitcher plant savannahs to palmetto palm flats.

Why go to Mexico to study jungle growth patterns, if we have them here? Why go to Tennessee to study Appalachian plant communities, if they too are here, alongside the Mexican jungles? The Big Thicket, in short, is a unique ecological laboratory—the best-equipped such laboratory in North America. It contains the largest number of varying conditions, packed into the smallest area, in combinations that cannot be found outside its borders.

Does it make sense to dismantle this laboratory now, when we are just beginning to grasp its significance?

This much can be said for the Thicket by considering its plant ecology alone. But there are other things that should be pointed to and I will point to them very quickly. It has been estimated there are from 1,000 to 2,000 varieties of molds and fungi in Big Thicket that is not exactly a glamour subject. But a mold was the source of penicillin. Conceivably a mold or fungus will provide the basis for a cure for cancer.

If we "soil-shred" the Thicket, the entire microecology of molds and fungi will be lost, before we can know what it will do for us.

Fungi are not exactly spectacular topics for conversation. The next topic is rather more spectacular, though to some it is less appealing; namely, snakes. There are more varieties of snakes in the Big Thicket than in any region of comparable size in the United States.⁴ With the possible exception of Florida, no State contains as many kinds of snakes as the six or seven counties of the Thicket. Some of these, like the worm snake, the Louisiana pine snake, and the red-bellied snake, are rare. It is quite possible that more new, rare species will be found. But even the most common species need to be protected. In the year 2010, over seven billion people will inhabit the surface of this planet. Where, then, will herpetologists go for their specimens, if, in the meantime, one of their richest resource areas is extinguished.⁵

The list can be lengthened indefinitely.⁶ The fish life of the Thicket dozen or more clear-running creeks is wholly unresearched; the number of migratory birds which use the region annually as a sanctuary is not known with certainty; the study of its unique small plant communities—for example, tupelo bogs, baygalls, sphagnum bogs—is beginning just as the bulldozers are beginning to erase them;⁷ the study of its plant species and subspecies is incomplete; its insect life remains virtually untouched by science;⁸ no one is certain whether the world's last remaining ivory-billed woodpeckers still haunt the last reaches of the thicket; no one knows for certain how many of the world's largest trees in their species exist in its backwaters.⁹

In short, the macroecology of the Big Thicket remains open to investigation; its microecology remains largely unknown; its biologi-

⁴ I am indebted to Prof. Russell Long of Lamar Tech, in Beaumont, for this assessment of the herpetological value of the Big Thicket. An incomplete list of Thicket reptiles is included in the "Biological Survey of the East Texas Big Thicket Area," pp. 18-20.

⁵ The problem goes far beyond the difficulty of just finding specimens. Students of animal behavior (ethologists) find that animals cannot be fully understood apart from their natural environment. Attempts to understand the capabilities and the interaction-patterns of animals in artificial, zoo environments are limited by the impact of that environment on the captured animals. Where will biologists go to find, for example, snakes, in a natural habitat, in another 30, 40, 50 years, if biologically rich areas like the Big Thicket are allowed to be destroyed?

⁶ The only thoroughgoing attempt to classify the plants and animals of the region is the *Biological Survey of the East Texas Big Thicket Area*, by H. B. Parks, V. L. Cory and others. This study, which appeared in 1938, was admittedly incomplete when published and is now out of date.

⁷ These studies are presently being undertaken by Prof. John Hilliard and Claud McLeod of Sam Houston State College, in Huntsville.

⁸ Two new species of insects have recently been discovered in the Big Thicket by Professors Cowan and Hilliard of Sam Houston State College, the flesh fly and the toothpick grasshopper. Both have been found in bog and savannah areas, which support insectivorous plants. The flesh fly exists through its symbiotic relationship with the insectivorous pitcher plant.

⁹ A check of the Texas Forest Service list of "State Champion Trees of Texas" (dated Oct. 1, 1969) reveals the existence of 46 State and 12 national "champions" in or near the present Big Thicket. (A "champion" tree is the largest known tree in its species.) The national champions are: water tupelo, black hickory, American holly, redbay, eastern redcedar, pyramid magnolia, Texas honeylocust, sweetbay, Mexican plum, sugarberry, yaupon, Chinese tallowtree. This list remains subject to change, partly because the search for "champion" trees has produced a great deal of competition nationally, but also because there has never been a thoroughgoing search for large trees in the Thicket. It has only been 4 years since the world's tallest cypress was found in a bottomland along the Trinity River. Not long ago an oak tree was reported in the town of Daisetta whose girth must rival any in the world. The report remains unchecked, however, as do many others. On a recent trip through the Big Thicket with Congressman Bush, Big Thicket Association and Sierra Club officials were astonished by the discovery of massive trees on the Tromberger tract along Village Creek which no one had ever bothered to measure. One can predict with reasonable certainty the discovery of further world, national, and State champions in the Thicket. What one would like to see is an intensive search for Thicket champions coupled with a listing of the 10 largest trees in each species. The Thicket contains not only champions, but near-champions. Just how many, however, is anyone's guess.

cal significance is clearly immense; but, like an iceberg, much of it remains to be brought to view.¹⁰

We can no longer afford to neglect and abuse such sources of knowledge as the Big Thicket. Our future depends upon just the kinds of knowledge which only places like the Thicket can supply.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Doctor. It is a very splendidly worked out statement and very well given.

Tell me this: How many students do you have in North Texas State University, what is the range of it?

Professor GUNTER. We have about 15,000 students.

Senator BIBLE. Where is that, geographically? You have to refresh my memory.

Professor GUNTER. This is in Denton, north of Dallas by 25 or 30 miles.

Senator BIBLE. This is a very fine statement. I suppose you have had the same growth in your North Texas State University that we have had throughout the university systems of the United States?

Professor GUNTER. Yes, sir.

Senator BIBLE. I suppose it has been a fabulous growth in population.

Professor GUNTER. Yes, it has doubled and tripled in the last 15 years.

Senator BIBLE. I am not sure but that is one of the reasons why we have to do something about these vanishing areas of ecological significance.

Any questions, Senator Yarborough?

Senator YARBOROUGH. Yesterday, Senator Bible and I were presented with copies Nos. 1 and 2 of the "Big Thicket Bibliography" by Lois Parker. I just want to say that Mr. Gunter is listed as an author of six different publications about the Big Thicket and has been studying this area for years. Also, his university, of the more than 100 in Texas, is fourth in enrollment.

Senator BIBLE. You have a hundred universities in Texas?

Senator YARBOROUGH. And colleges.

I want to call attention to the fact that the former U.S. Senator with whom you served, Senator Price Daniel, lived and was reared in the Big Thicket area and supports the bill, and is here today.

Senator BIBLE. I am honored to welcome Price Daniel; let's give him a hand. [Applause.]

Price and I go back to attorney general days when I was attorney general of Nevada and Price was attorney general of this great State,

¹⁰ The only full-scale ecological survey of the area is Claud McLeod's *The Big Thicket of East Texas, Its History, Location, and Description*, Huntsville, Texas: The Sam Houston Press, 1967. Professor McLeod's survey establishes the thesis that there are two distinct subregions in the Big Thicket: the upper region, which exhibits a distinctive mixture of beech and magnolias, and the lower a mixture of magnolia and chestnut oak. In an article soon to be published in the journal of the Texas Academy of Science, Professor McLeod adds still a third region, the "Stream Thicket," which stretches along lowland areas in Newton and Jasper Counties from the "Upper Thicket" almost to the Louisiana border. All three regions have been disputed as distinct ecological areas, and, as always, their proposed boundaries have been open to conjecture. The basic difficulty would seem to be that McLeod's work is based exclusively on the existence of at most two or three distinctive tree species in a given area. Maps based on the presence of other tree species would produce both different boundaries and different sub-regions for the Big Thicket. At the present time, however, no such maps exist. The macroecology of the region is, thus, incompletely studied. Its microecology is, so far as science is concerned, almost completely unknown.

later a great Governor and later a splendid U.S. Senator, and it is good to see him and I am happy to be down in Texas again.

Now, our next witness is Dr. Clare Gunn, Texas A. & M. University, College Station, Tex.

I might say while Dr. Gunn is being seated that my second cousin, Dana Bible, used to coach at Texas A. & M., and won a few games, then the great universities of Texas lured him back into Austin which I rather parochially thought had a fairly good football team, the University of Texas, over a good many years and I know he used to be a rival of Texas A. & M. but that is just a little athletic sideline of mine. He could play football and I didn't even make the fifth team, let alone the bench.

So, Doctor, I am delighted to have you here this morning.

STATEMENT OF DR. CLARE A. GUNN, PROFESSOR OF TOURISM-RECREATION DEVELOPMENT, RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT, TEXAS A. & M. UNIVERSITY

Dr. GUNN. Senator, we have on occasion been known to play football. Senator BIBLE. I am aware of Texas A. & M.'s policy.

Dr. GUNN. Senator, the Conservation Committee of the Texas Academy of Science will be submitting a statement very shortly. Dr. Baldauf and I discussed this yesterday and this will be forthcoming.

Senator BIBLE. Very well.

Will he be appearing here as a witness?

Dr. GUNN. Not today. He was unable to make it today.

Senator BIBLE. We are making it abundantly clear the record will be kept open for 14 days from today which will be 2 weeks from today, and it will be kept open until 5 o'clock on June 26, and I say that so that everybody will have the opportunity of submitting any additional information they want. I think this is probably a good point to indicate to you how the problems are handled when we leave here.

The Director of the Park Service is here with his staff and we are going out to visit the area this afternoon and evening and then when we return to Washington we will ask for an evaluation and a plan from the Interior Department and we will ask for them to submit at a fairly reasonably early date, I am very well aware that time is pretty much of the essence of it, as we lawyers say in a problem like this, and we do not want to delay too long because people are entitled to know what we are going to do and when we are going to do it.

Let me say we are only a coequal branch of the Congress of the United States and I cannot commit the movement of a bill on the House side, I would not propose to do that, or intend to do that, and could not do it if I wanted to, but we would attempt to get at this bill at a reasonably early date.

Now, the next question the reporters will say, how soon are you going to do what? Well, I do not know because I have to evaluate this. I have to take it back and submit it and talk it over with my fellow subcommittee members of the Interior Committee in an attempt to evolve all of that.

Once we receive a plan report from the National Park Service, and I do not know how soon they can come up with something that is defini-

tive, we hope they would do it very soon because you keep these people up in the air if you don't plan on telling them what you are going to do, but that is only one part of the problem.

Whatever action the Senate might take, if they did take favorable action, then it would still have to go to the House of Representatives and that is another legislative body, as you know, and I do not know what their timetable would be or whether they would have hearings here or where, I cannot control that.

But I think, Senator Yarborough, the point you make, that we should move along without delay is a completely valid thing and I am going to move as quickly as I can, I cannot put a timetable because we simply cannot, there is no way you can do it in a problem that has the complexities and obvious problems you have in this. You can tell this from the witnesses you heard this morning.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I am very appreciative of the difficulties that the Chairman has, first as to the subcommittee and full committee, and the other House. But some of the companies like Temple Industries that have withheld cutting for 2 years are growing restive. They want to know if nothing is going to be created, they want to go ahead and start cutting again, some who have voluntarily stopped cutting on the 35,000 acres, and I think that all would be benefited with action. We all know with delay, land prices going up, and I am very grateful for the Chairman's dedication to this, and for your having worked 4 months to find this time in your schedule, to come on a weekend to Texas. The Chairman serves all 50 States and I know the difficulty of having hearings. In our Labor and Public Welfare Committee various requests from all over the Nation, and we cannot accommodate, but about one-tenth of the requests. I am very grateful to the Chairman for taking his time to come here.

Senator BIBLE. I appreciate that.

Doctor, we were not trying to preempt your time, although it sounds like it. I want to try to emphasize that because our good friends of the press will ask these questions. I think I have anticipated, answering most of them already, but that is the way we handle it on the Washington level.

Thank you very much. You may proceed.

Dr. GUNN. I am speaking as an educator, researcher in landscape architecture and tourism in my testimony today. It is primarily directed toward overall planning and the justification I see for establishing the Big Thicket National Recreation Area.

I want to explain why I see the Big Thicket as a vibrant, active, and interesting area, filled with hundreds of thousands of visitors who are able to learn not only more about their environment but also more about themselves.

The views I wish to express are not necessarily those of any organization or institution with which I may be connected.

Let me begin by making the observation that many of the social and economic ills of our country today can be attributed to our lack of understanding of our environment.

For example, nature preservationists who decry modern materialism are delighted to come to protest meetings in comfortable air-conditioned automobiles, made of steel, aluminum and plastics—

products whose processing creates considerable air and water pollution.

Not only do we lack an understanding of our environment, but we have not yet become good custodians of it.

As I travel and work throughout the United States, it seems to me that one of the geographic areas least well understood by the rest of the Nation is the region we are in today.

Generally, those living in the heavily populated areas—and I personally come from the State of Michigan—of the North, East and Far West view all of Texas as a treeless wasteland, a parched arid plain, and as a cattelnd, peopled only by “Marlboro” cowboys.

Senator BIBLE. You get that from the ad on television.

Dr. GUNN. Friends in my native State of Michigan find incredible my comments about the lush forests, the unusual plant materials, the abundance of birds and wildlife, and the dramatic historic and ecological situations.

One of the greatest accomplishments toward increasing our understandings of our country has been that of the National Park Service in its administration of national parks, monuments, and, more recently, recreation areas.

No one can visit such national parks as Great Smoky Mountains, Isle Royale, or Hawaii volcanoes without obtaining a better understanding of the very resource foundation of this country.

No one can visit the national monuments, such as White Sands, Dinosaur, or Badlands without an appreciation of the country’s geology, ecology, and natural science even if he had never in his life opened a science book.

In spite of unprecedented pressure by millions more people to visit and use these national areas and even with cuts in administrative funds, the National Park Service continues to demonstrate its unique ability to manage and interpret these wonders for millions of Americans as well as for increasing numbers of foreign visitors.

I am confident that, if given the opportunity, this agency could do the same for a Big Thicket National Recreation Area.

Just a year ago this month, our new Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, outlined policy guidelines for the National Park Service.

I think that these are extremely important to all interested in the Big Thicket.

For the next few moments, I would like to quote from this policy statement of June 22, 1969, and make some comparisons with the Big Thicket proposal.

I quote Mr. Hickel:

I am pleased to learn of your program to designate Environmental Study Areas as “outdoor laboratories” within the National Park System for the use of educational groups ***.

A vigorous, creative program of environmental education is essential if we are to build environmental awareness into our society.

Several locations within the Big Thicket, such as the natural area units identified by the National Park Service in September 1968, lend themselves well to such educational centers.

Many natives of this region already possess the understandings of

the lore, the history, and the cultural qualities necessary for operating such culture centers.

Again quoting Mr. Hickel:

To protect the fragile resources of these areas, recreational opportunities must be planned with due regard for their natural values and beauty.

Mass transportation facilities in many instances will enhance the quality of the park experience.

I agree that the individual automobile and its use cause the greatest problems in the development and management of parks everywhere.

Now is the time to plan for instructive, entertaining, and enriching narrated tours throughout the Big Thicket, either by bus or by excursion boat.

An overhead transportation system that does not touch the ground can prevent trampling and picking of rare species of plants important to this area.

Again I quote Mr. Hickel:

The National Park System should protect and exhibit the best examples of our great national landscapes, riverscapes, and shores * * * the processes which formed them, the life communities that grow and dwell therein, and the important landmarks of our history.

Few beaches in this country—from the Atlantic to the Great Lakes and on to Hawaii—are as fine as those along the Neches River. This river system reveals many natural history stories and holds great potential for recreational use.

I predict, however, that its use will be congested, conflicting, and erosive of the natural assets if the kind of total management, only possible under the National Park Service, is not exercised.

Again, let me quote Mr. Hickel:

I am especially interested in your seeing that, to the greatest extent feasible, camping opportunities are made available to the youth of our Nation. To this end, I wish you to give emphasis in your management to an expanded program of hostels and group camps, especially in those areas near urban centers.

In my opinion, the Big Thicket is ideal for this type of use, being within 100 miles of over 2½ million people, almost 1 million of whom are under 18 years of age.

It contains the variety of scenic, natural resource, and historic interest well adapted to youth camping the year around.

Once more, quoting Mr. Hickel:

I wish you to initiate * * * a study of what opportunities exist for an expanded program of Federal acquisition and federally assisted acquisition of park and recreation lands in the large urban centers of our Nation. * * * In your study, emphasis should be placed upon the strategic location and quality of the lands involved and not simply the quantity.

Here, so close to urban concentrations, is an unusual area, already well documented regarding its ecological, geological, and botanical importance. From the evidence of those who have researched these qualities in detail, I believe that the Big Thicket meets the location and qualitative criteria set forth by Mr. Hickel.

And, let me quote Mr. Hickel once more:

New partnership relations involving Federal, State, and local governments and private organizations should be explored and encouraged.

Within the Big Thicket, I can visualize a highly instructive educational center, established by the timber industry.

Such a center could explain the most modern methods of silviculture and the relationship of the environment that produces wood fiber and many useful products to human consumption and enjoyment.

I visualize also a petroleum educational center that explains the mining, processing and distribution systems involved in the modern petroleum and petrochemical industry.

It seems to me that right in the Big Thicket, where extraction of raw materials is critical, is the place to be talking honestly about these realistic aspects of resource use.

There are several other points, such as cultural and recreational development of Indian reservations that have been mentioned before upon which there is close agreement between the resources of the Big Thicket and Mr. Hickel's new policies.

Now, let me summarize those particularly important aspects of this area that support the concept of a Big Thicket National Recreation Area:

1. Nothing like it now exists and therefore the people of the United States and especially the South Central States have no such dedicated area for ecological preservation, study, and natural resource education and recreation;

2. The proposal would provide recreational and educational opportunity now unavailable for many million of urbanized young people and adults in this rapidly growing metropolitan complex;

3. Recent national recognition of environmental issues supports the need for establishing a private-Government mix of development within the Big Thicket National Recreation Area rather than perpetuating the obsolete public-versus-private polarized dichotomy;

4. When developed in a manner that would provide nature interpretation, outdoor recreation, geologic study, and protection of the ecosystems, the Big Thicket National Recreation Area could reasonably attract over 2 million persons per year;

5. Finally, the Big Thicket National Recreation Area meets all of the new criteria set forth by Secretary Hickel.

Therefore, I propose the establishment of the Big Thicket National Recreation Area as an educational and avocational laboratory where we can observe, relax, recreate, and better understand the interrelationship between man and his environment.

Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Doctor, that is one of the finest presentations made this entire day. What I like about you is that you make concrete suggestions, and I recommend it to Director Hartzog who is seated here as foreman of the jury that he pay particular attention to some of the recommendations you make. This is so important when you move into the area where there is some difference of opinion and controversy we must evolve a plan that is a workable plan and one that is not misunderstood by people, and I think you have given him some real suggestions to mull over and cogitate on and discuss with his own planners and experts in coming forward with a plan. Because the next move after we make our visit today will be back on his shoulders, that is to give us recommendations from Secretary Hickel whom you quote rather frequently throughout, and I suppose by design, in making your presentation here this morning. So I know George Hartzog has already

received that message. He is a South Carolinian, son of a Methodist minister, and became a lawyer, and now is running the park system. I am kind of glad he stayed in parks instead of getting back into politics. He would have been a formidable opponent even in Texas.

So I think of it as a very usually fine presentation.

I will yield to Senator Yarborough.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Thank you, Dr. Gunn, for this fine presentation.

Now we have got a man in Texas whose vision matches that of Justice Douglas. When Justice Douglas looked at it, he said, "You are too modest, you are doing too little, why not 300,000, why not a half million, you ought to have a half million acres in this park." So when you say it would take 800,000, you have somebody right here at home matching Justice Douglas from outside the State in stating what area it would take to do this job.

Senator BIBLE. Maybe I had better get to Washington before they want to include the whole State of Texas, but I appreciate that, Doctor, a very great deal.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce to this audience the man who permitted me a few moments to share the bench which he ordinarily chairs and that is the chief judge of this Eastern District of Texas, Chief Judge Joe Fisher.

Would you stand and take a bow, Judge?

He has the best position in the world, he does not have to run for office, he is in for life, and that is a pretty good position to be in.

I seldom have had the opportunity of presiding over a chief judge in the Federal court system. I have been down in the barrister's role many times, and it is kind of refreshing to be up here with this top level judge.

We will give you equal time.

Judge FISHER. Senator, I think I might mention one of the advantages of being a member of the judiciary rather than the legislative branch. You do not have to undergo all of the physical exposure that you do from these lights. I do not know whether I could hold court every day under these glaring lights. I think that is pretty severe punishment that you have to take.

Senator BIBLE. Well, some of us think it is. But, you know, we come through those tubes regularly, this is the way America lives today and the day they don't pan in on us, we know we are in trouble. [Laughter.]

So we do appreciate having them with us, and I certainly do again want to thank you for your kindness in making this courtroom available.

Judge FISHER. It is a pleasure for us to make these facilities available for you, and I understand that it is most important to this area, and I for one endorse your good work in your hearing.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Judge.

I certainly want to yield to Senator Yarborough.

Senator YARBOROUGH. It is my good fortune to have been in this room when Chief Judge Joe Fisher was sworn in as Federal judge. The main address was made at that time by the then majority leader of the Senate, later President of the United States, President Lyndon Johnson, at his swearing in. Judge Fisher is from a distinguished east

Texas family who has lived here many generations. Probably the member you might know best is his brother-in-law who is in Washington quite a bit with the Inter-American Bank and other appointments. He was Ambassador Edward Clark, who was the most successful Ambassador to Australia we ever had. I think you know his brother-in-law quite well, and we want to thank the Judge again.

I want to join with you in thanks for allowing us to use the courtroom and I also want to thank his marshal, Mr. Keith Gary, who, with his deputy, has taken time with his cars, seeing that those representing the Federal Government get transportation for these hearings. The judge and his marshals and deputies, have joined in to assist these hearings and make them a success.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you.

Just before we take our noon recess, I am going to first recognize a dear friend of mine of years standing, a very dear friend of my wife's from Texas, to show how the other side lives, and she is enjoying every bit of it, but I do want to recognize Mrs. Price Daniel, Mrs. Jean Daniel, who has been a lifelong friend. [Applause.]

Senator BIBLE. Just before we take our noon recess, I am going to call on Price Daniel, he has a few words that he would like to say, and as fellow lawyers this is how we first got to know each other.

We are going to recess at 10 minutes after 12 even if you are the former Attorney General.

Governor, and former U.S. Senator, Price Daniel, we are happy to see you.

STATEMENT OF HON. PRICE DANIEL, FORMER GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS AND FORMER U.S. SENATOR

Mr. DANIEL. Mr. Chairman, I will try to give you back 5 minutes.

Senator BIBLE. All right.

Mr. DANIEL. Mr. Chairman and Senator Yarborough, I appreciate the invitation to appear before your committee, and apologize for not having a written statement and for not having gotten my name on the list. It is because only 2 hours ago did I know that it would be possible for me to be here.

First I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for coming to Texas and holding these hearings. This is a very important matter, and when I read that you were coming, on account of our long association as fellow attorneys general and as Members of the Senate, I certainly hoped that I could come here and welcome you and thank you for being here.

Next I would like to thank Senator Yarborough for the excellent work that he has done on this Big Thicket project. Like Padre Island, he has worked hard, and think that Padre Island and Big Thicket National Park will be monuments to this public service.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, may I say a word here before Senator Daniel starts in with his formal statement?

Senator Daniel left the Senate to serve three terms as Governor, and in that three terms he recommended over and over that the Legislature of Texas create a State park here, that was before our bill was introduced in Washington. He tried then—he grew up in this area, here

in Liberty in part of the Thicket, and he tried to save it as a State park but the legislature would not spend the money to do anything but I never saw a Governor work more diligently in trying to preserve it as he did and in his recommendations.

I think his people have lived here in this area since under Spanish rule, I believe Mexican rule.

Mr. DANIEL. Yes, sir.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I believe they came in before Texas was around when they came here. His lovely wife, Mrs. Jean Daniel is a direct descendant of President and Governor and Senator Sam Houston. She also comes from the area. We appreciate all that you did as Governor, Price, in trying to save the Big Thicket even before we began introducing legislation in Congress on it.

Mr. DANIEL. Thank you, and I appreciate what you have done and just then you made about half of my speech. That is what I was going to talk about.

Senator BIBLE. You have to watch these Texans.

Mr. DANIEL. I am referring not to the complimentary personal remarks but to the efforts that I made as Governor to try to get the State to do something about it, and the State legislature simply would not do it.

We have lived in this area for many, many years, and our families before us. In fact, Liberty County is only the edge of what is left of the Big Thicket. Some of it is still in Liberty County, some of it has not been destroyed, and just to show you the primitive nature of the area, a few people used to live in the Big Thicket and my brother Bill and I, whom you know, used to hunt there, and we would get to meet with these people at times but then I went off to be attorney general and Governor and Senator, and the Houston Chronicle reporter had an article in which he was telling how far back in the woods these people were with no radios, no newspapers, no touch with the outside world. This reporter said that he asked an old gentleman in there if he knew the Daniel boys and he said, "Yes, I know them both," he says. "I see Bill, he still comes out here and hunts, but reckon whatever happened to old Price." [Laughter.]

Senator BIBLE. That shows what happens to you when you go into politics.

Mr. DANIEL. Mr. Chairman, as Senator Yarborough says, I did urge the State Parks Board and the legislature to do something about preserving part of the Big Thicket for a State park. As you know, I have always been a strong believer in the States' exercising their responsibilities. I recommended that the legislature do something about Padre Island, but the legislature didn't act, and finally I ended up supporting Senator Yarborough's project there on Padre Island and that is exactly what has happened here so far as the Big Thicket is concerned.

I do not know if it would be of interest in your record or not, but I want to hand to this friend of mine here who is reporting five exhibits which show some of the work, especially the meeting that we organized and held in Beaumont which was the big push in March of 1962, to try to get the State active. Also, the last of these exhibits has to do with a committee that I appointed in November of 1962, and then I

would like to offer for the record in my last message to the legislature on January 9, 1963, my recommendation as far as State action on the Big Thicket State Park. It was about that year that the people decided to retire me, and Senator Yarborough, you haven't been the——

Senator YARBOROUGH. I have had a similar experience.

Mr. DANIEL. You aren't the only one in this room who has had this experience. That is on page 153.

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, all the exhibits will be made a part of the record.

Mr. DANIEL. What did the legislature do? Absolutely nothing.

This last recommendation that I placed in the record proposed the organization of an authority which could issue revenue bonds, and acquire the lands, and try to get the park on a self-supporting basis. But the Texas Legislature did not see this thing as some of the people of this State, many of the people of this State and Nation, and Senator Yarborough and Members of Congress saw it, and so they did nothing, and as I said back there then when I was working on it; that if the legislature did not act, I was going to support Federal legislation on a national park, and I am here now to tell you that I do, as former Governor of this State, and a former Member of the Senate, wholeheartedly support the bill that is before you introduced by Senator Yarborough.

I just want to say one thing about the bill that is particularly good, and I hope that it will be left in the bill, and that is the provision that enables the Secretary of the Interior to buy lands anywhere in the general area so that they might be traded and exchanged for lands that might be in the ultimate park area.

That is very important because the timber companies, of course, would much rather have some land traded to them for what they might have to give up in the park area than to just sell it, and in recent years there has been considerable acreage in the Big Thicket area that has been for sale. Not more than 3 years ago there was a tremendous acreage, more acreage than is proposed in this bill before you now, for sale at \$100 an acre. And I think it is important that this part stay in the bill so that the Secretary of the Interior, while he is purchasing the land that seems to be the very best to keep, that he is also enabled to buy land that can be exchanged for these other lands.

Now, I am not going to say anything about the wonders, the beauty, and all the birds and the trees, and the waters, and the orchids and all those things. You have experts, I am sure you have heard about them this morning. They know a lot more than I do about it. Only I have been there a lot, and what bothers me is that the longer we wait, the less of this wonderful bounty of nature that the Lord has placed there that we are going to have to preserve.

So I do urge you, sir, to speed action on the legislation as fast as you can.

Senator BIBLE. You have 2 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL. No; my time is up, and again I want to thank you for being here, and Senator Yarborough for getting you here.

Senator BIBLE. Well, thank you very much, Price. It is so very, very good to see an old friend. [Applause.]

Now, this has been a very wonderful morning. We started it 4 hours ago at 8 a.m. We covered about 25 witnesses. I think you are to be commended as a very cooperative audience, and very cooperative witnesses. We are going to take a short break for lunch and we are going to be back here at 1:30 and those who have not been heard this morning will be heard this afternoon.

You are a wonderful audience, thank you very much.
(The exhibits referred to follow:)

[From the Report to the Legislature, Governor Price Daniel, 1957-63]

BIG THICKET STATE PARK AND GAME RESTORATION

The Big Thicket in Southeast Texas has the greatest variety of native plants, trees, game, wild orchids and other flowers, of any area in the Nation. Properly restocked with deer, bear, buffalo, and other game, it could be made an attraction in the class of Yellowstone National Park. I have appointed a study committee to consider the feasibility of creating a State park and game restoration area here without the need for State appropriations. This can be done with proper cooperation from the timber company landowners through surface leases and acquisition of land along the scenic drives and in the main game restoration area. I urge that the Legislature create a Big Thicket Park Authority, with membership possibly consisting of the Chairmen of the State Parks Board, Game and Fish Commission and Highway Commission, with power to accept leases and gifts of land and make purchases and developments financed by revenue bonds. I believe this project can be self-financing.

PRESS MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PRICE DANIEL, WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 7, 1962

A State park and game restoration project in the Big Thicket area of East Texas can become one of the Southwest's greatest tourist attractions, Governor Price Daniel told the Texas Tourist Council's executive committee here today.

Council leaders have endorsed the Governor's proposal that they, together with Chamber of Commerce groups throughout Southeast Texas, sponsor a meeting in Beaumont March 29 to lay plans for the project and tour the Big Thicket area.

"I am tremendously encouraged by response to this proposal," Governor Daniel said. "Newspapers all over the State have commented favorably, and 56 leaders from the area attended the first planning session in Beaumont last week. Several hundred are expected to participate in a conference and tour of the Big Thicket on March 29."

The original Big Thicket covered a line running approximately from Houston to Nacogdoches on the West, Houston to Orange on the South, the Sabine River on the East and Nacogdoches to San Augustine on the North. Chambers of Commerce and civic groups from the entire area are joining in the conference.

"If the State, local citizens, landowners and industries in the area can get together on a plan of action, we can build the Big Thicket park into one of the Southwest's greatest tourist attractions and make an important step in wildlife conservation.

"The Texas Tourist Council can provide the leadership we need to get this project moving. It is something we can make some real progress with before the next session of the Legislature which will be our first opportunity to get the funds our State badly needs for tourist advertising.

"I am as disappointed as you that a willful minority defeated appropriations for a tourist attraction program in the special session of the Legislature this year.

"While the national travel and tourist industry has grown from \$20 billion in 1956 to nearly \$30 billion today, Texas has lost more than a million and a half visitors a year due mainly to failure of the Legislature to put us in a competitive position with the other States which have been in the tourist attraction business for many years.

"This is a ridiculous situation, and fortunately it has no parallel in other Texas industry. While these other industries grow, the tourist trade declines.

"With your support, I asked the Legislature last January to appropriate \$300,000 to tourist advertising, to be matched by \$200,000 from private business. The voters of Texas authorized a tourist program by Constitutional amendment which I was proud to fight for. We are going to *have* such a program.

"I will submit it to the Legislature at the first opportunity—and in a larger amount to compensate for the delay. This time, I predict it will be passed by a substantial margin. I urge the Texas Tourist Council to conduct a statewide campaign to impress voters with the soundness of this proposition and with the importance of having legislators who understand and support it."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 8, 1962

AUSTIN, Texas (Special)—James M. Gaines of San Antonio, president of the Texas Tourist Council, today applauded the growing interest in developing a portion of the Big Thicket as a state park and game restoration area.

At the same time he called upon all Texans interested in tourism to attend a meeting in Beaumont, Thursday, March 29, during which the development plan will be explored in detail. Included will be a motor caravan to the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation near Livingston in the heart of the Big Thicket.

Governor Price Daniel last month proposed developing the park in an effort to preserve the rapidly-dwindling confines of the Southeast Texas region.

"We believe the Big Thicket offers a vast tourist potential if developed along lines suggested by Governor Daniel," Gaines said. "In this day of accelerated urbanization, more and more Americans are deprived of the opportunity to see those few remaining portions of their nation still in a natural state.

"We are fortunate to have one such area in the Big Thicket, an area that will yield the state a windfall in tourist dollars and the appreciation of a nation if we act now to preserve and develop it."

Gaines explained that one of the primary reasons the Council was formed early this year was to encourage local communities and areas in developing tourist attractions so visitors will have something to see and do when they come to Texas.

"In line with this role, the Big Thicket is a natural focal point for our interest," he said.

Gaines noted that although much remains to be done in preparing the area for visitors, much has already been provided, both by man and nature.

"The million acres we generally think of as the Big Thicket is, in general, highly accessible," he observed, "with three interstate highways, six U.S. highways, five state highways and 21 Farm to Market roads serving it. Both the populous Houston and Beaumont areas are within 50 miles of the region.

"On the other hand, nature has been generous to the Big Thicket—so generous that naturalists regard the area as being as rich in flora and fauna as the Everglades and Yellowstone rolled into one."

Gaines took special note of the region's 50 species of animals, including bear, fox, mink, and deer; its colonies of rare birds, among its 108 species some once thought extinct; a collection of 94 different reptiles and amphibians, at least 50 species of fish and a sweeping panorama of 1,513 varieties of plants, from rare native orchids to virgin hardwood forests at least 1,000 years old.

"The prospect of perserving all this and making it available to the public staggers the imagination," Gaines said. "And you don't have far to look to find evidence that support for the program is springing up across the state.

"Already hundreds of tourist-minded Texans and naturalists have expressed their intention to attend the Beaumont meeting and help launch the program. It will be a rich opportunity to strike a blow for tourism—and conservation."

BIG THICKET PLANNING CONFERENCE AND TOUR, BEAUMONT, TEX., MARCH 29, 1962

The lush and majestic Big Thicket of East Texas, a half million acre natural wonder touched only lightly by the space age, is getting close attention today as a major tourist attraction.

A March 29 conference in Beaumont called by Governor Price Daniel to discuss his proposal to make the Big Thicket a State Park and Game Restoration Area is the result of a two-year-long study initiated by the Governor.

The Conference is sponsored jointly by the Texas Tourist Council, Chambers of Commerce and interested citizens and organizations throughout the State. The general public is invited to participate in the meeting and a tour of the thicket.

Governor Daniel has warned repeatedly that, unless Texas takes prompt action to preserve part of the fabulous forest, the federal government will take it over as part of its wilderness program—or that the bountiful forest, plant and wild-life resources will vanish.

The Big Thicket centers in Hardin, Polk and Tyler counties, but it covers nearly a half million acres in southeast Texas including all or parts of Angelina, Hardin, Jasper, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity and Tyler counties.

It is rich in history and legend, and within its confines are an Indian reservation, nearly 4,000 native plants, 50 species of mammals and more than 100 species of birds. Fifty species of fish swim in its lakes and streams. Just to its North lies the East Texas Forest Belt of pines and hardwoods.

"The Big Thicket," Governor Daniel said, "contains more specimens of plants, trees, and wildlife than any similar area in the United States, and with proper restoration of native game, such as bear, deer, bobcat, and mink, it can equal Yellowstone National Park in its attractions for tourists and scientists."

The breathtakingly scenic area, where 15 varieties of pink and white orchids grow wild, is accessible by more than 30 highways, from Interstate Highways to Farm-to-Market Roads.

Originally, the Big Thicket covered more than 3,000,000 acres between Old San Antonio Road and the coastal prairie of South Texas from the Sabine River on the east as far west as the Brazos. Geologically, its northern border was the last shore line of the Pliocene Age. Geologists pinpoint its southern boundary at the end of the interglacial period as the Gulf of Mexico.

"It is my hope," the Governor said, "that a portion of the remaining area can be preserved in its natural state as much as possible, and I believe the citizens and industries of this region will cooperate. A State wilderness area would not only preserve these resources, but would become a wonderful attraction for visitors and tourists."

The Big Thicket has an average altitude of about 100 feet. Its soil is mostly sandy, and the Thicket is a plain traversed by the Sabine, Neches, Angelina, and Trinity Rivers and their tributaries.

Water can be found there almost anywhere at a depth of not more than 20 feet. Because of its nearness to the Gulf, its heavy forest cover, and the enormous amount of water stored in its soils, the section has a very even climate. For many years, frosts did not invade its vastness, and droughts are almost unknown.

The only severity of climate is the Gulf storms. Several of these storms in prehistoric times cut sharp lines through the area. Because of the Thicket's perfect harmony with plant growth, however, the scars were soon healed. Records of some of these storms appear as peculiarly-shaped ridges all running in one direction.

Early migrants from Louisiana found their way blocked by impenetrable thickets rooted in the sandy soils of hillsides bordering almost innumerable streams. These thickets and their intricate network grew rampant over the whole area. Travelers could not proceed any great distance without encountering one of them. Hence the name: the Big Thicket.

Many of those virgin conditions of nature have disappeared, but much of the Big Thicket still displays Mother Nature untouched by man—mile after mile. Neither the ax nor the plow has taken either the forest or the sod in these areas. Acres of virgin forest protect a ground cover of some of the most beautiful and interesting low trees and shrubs in the world. This greenery, in turn, protects many forms of fascinating vegetable life.

Tourists who motor to what could be Texas' newest Tourist Mecca will find it convenient for auto traffic on many routes. All of these routes reach it:

Interstate Highways 10, 20, and 45. U.S. Highways 59, 69, 90, 96, 190, and 287. State Highways 63, 105, 146, 326, and 327. And 21 Farm-to-Market Roads: FM 62, 92, 160, 162, 256, 365, 418, 770, 834, 942, 943, 1003, 1013, 1276, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1943, 1988, 1993, and 2500.

U.S. Department of Commerce figures show that a city (or, in this case, an area) that can attract only two dozen tourists a day has a source of income equivalent to a manufacturing industry with a \$100,000 annual payroll.

But even with good roads in and out of an area, tourists want something to make it worth their while to make the visit to any particular area. Here are some of the Big Thicket's attractions:

Texas' only Indian reservation is located there in the eastern part of Polk County, on State Highway 190 between Livingston and Woodville.

Members of the Alabama and Coushatta tribes are the principal residents on the reservation. These tribes entered East Texas in the early part of the Nineteenth Century. Remnants, scattered along the Neches River in 1854, attracted the attention of Sam Houston. He was influential in having two square miles of land (1,280 acres) given to the tribes for a reservation.

On 590 acres of the Big Thicket is the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. This sanctuary was established by the Houston Outdoor Nature Club, and the organization wants to increase the acreage to 1,500 for future representation of the Thicket's economic, historical, and scientific resources.

Lovers of trees and shrubs will find the area abounding with vines, creepers, and shrubs. Some of the rare ferns are six feet tall. Some of the trees are centuries old. Delicately colored flowers and moss cover the ground in many places.

Streams, lakes, and pot holes are bordered with wild flags and iris, white and red lilies, hyacinths, and cat-tails. Some of the palmettos grow to heights of eight and ten feet before the fronds begin, and the more common variety forms a knee-high mass of tossing green.

The Big Thicket also boasts of having what is probably the oldest existing oil well in the United States. It is located in the middle of the Saratoga oil field and was driven down by mule power in 1865. After almost a century, the iron casing is still in good condition.

The March 29 Big Thicket State Park and Game Restoration Conference will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Ridgewood Motor Hotel on Interstate 10 Freeway near 11th Street in Beaumont. After discussions, committees will be named to work on the project.

At 11 a.m., the conferees will tour part of the Big Thicket in buses and cars. They will have a Dutch-treat barbecue lunch at Honey Island en route. The tour will include Sour Lake, Saratoga, Bragg, and the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Village. Entertainment will be provided by the Indian tribe at the Village. The tour will return to Beaumont via Woodville where the Dogwood Festival will be in progress.

Governor Daniel made a personal inspection of part of the area during the Thanksgiving holidays last year.

"I am hopeful that the State and local citizens and landowners will cooperate in establishing this wilderness and game preservation program," the Governor stated. "Too long, the State has neglected such opportunities."

PROGRAM

BIG THICKET STATE PARK CONFERENCE, AND TOUR, RIDGEWOOD MOTOR HOTEL, BEAUMONT, TEX., 9:30 A.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1962

(Sponsored by Texas Tourist Council, Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and organizations and individuals interested in the Big Thicket area and its development)

Call to order.—Chas. L. Schmucker, chairman, Big Thicket State Park and Game Restoration Area Steering Committee, Beaumont.

Invocation.—Rabbi Newton J. Friedman, president, Beaumont Ministerial Association, Beaumont.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIALS AND DELEGATIONS

Statement of purpose of the conference.—Gov. Price Daniel.
The Big Thicket.—A tourist mecca.

STATEMENT

Hon. John S. Redditt, former chairman, Texas Highway Commission, Lufkin.
James M. Gaines, president, Texas Tourist Council, San Antonio.
The Big Thicket—Its flora and fauna; Dr. Don O. Baird, past president, Texas Academy of Science, and retired professor of biology, Sam Houston State College, Huntsville, Tex.

Possibility of Game Restoration and Conservation in the Big Thicket: Hon. Howard Dodgen, executive secretary, Texas Game and Fish Commission, Austin.

The Big Thicket as a State park: Bill M. Collins, executive director, State Parks Board, Austin.

A PLAN OF ACTION AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

11 a.m.: Adjournment for cavalcade tour through the Big Thicket.

12:30 p.m. Dutch treat barbecue at Honey Island.

3 p.m.: Arrival at Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation for visit and program.

Return to Beaumont via Woodville and Kountze.

PRESS MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PRICE DANIEL, WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 7, 1962

Governor Price Daniel today appointed a study committee to review the feasibility of a State Park in the Big Thicket area of East Texas, and to report before the Legislature convenes in January.

Daniel said he had asked for an objective study under conditions that:

1. Any lands included in the park would be limited to gifts and leases which would not detract from the State's financial responsibility to parks already established.

2. The extent and location would be such as to contribute to the economy of the area and protect present timber, mineral, grazing and hunting uses.

Governor Daniel called the first meeting of the committee for 12 noon November 19 at the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation near Livingston. This site is a central location in the Big Thicket area and Texas' only Indian community has indicated great interest in the project.

"I withheld announcement of the committee until after the election in order to avoid any political implications such as some people tried to attach to the Big Thicket project last spring," Daniel said.

"I plan to include a report on this subject in my final message to the Legislature and have requested the preliminary study be completed for this purpose before January 1, 1963. Most members of the committee already have been studying the project. If the State, local citizens, landowners and industries in the area can get together on a plan of action, Texas can build a small portion of the Big Thicket into one of the Southwest's greatest tourist attractions and make an important step in wildlife conservation.

"The Big Thicket contains more specimens of plants, trees and wildlife than any similar area in the United States, and with proper restoration of native game such as bear, deer, bobcat and mink, it can equal Yellowstone National Park in its attractions for tourists and scientists. Feasibility of a park should be studied before Federal officials proceed to include part of this area in their restricted wilderness area program."

The Governor named Mayor Dempsie Hensley of Liberty as chairman of the committee. Howard Dodgen, Executive Secretary of the Game and Fish Commission; Bill Collins, Director of the State Park Board; Tom Taylor, Director of Travel and Information Division of the Highway Department; Brad Smith of the Governor's Office; and Walter W. Broemer, superintendent of the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation, were appointed consultants of the committee.

Other Committee members are as follows:

Mayor W. G. Birdwell of Kountze; Edgar W. Brown, Jr., of Orange; former State Representative Frank Carpenter of Sour Lake and Austin; Thomas L. Carter, lumberman, of Houston; Morris C. Clemmons, Jr., of Woodville; O. R. Crawford, Vice President, East Texas Pulp & Paper Co., Jasper;

Also Mayor Louis D. Didrikson of Newton; former Congressman Martin Dies, Sr., of Lufkin; J. Kirby Herndon of Kirby Lumber Corporation, Houston; Hale Johnston, Jr., of Hull; Mary Lasswell, writer and historian, of Austin; former Mayor Clifford H. LeBlanc of Beaumont, President of Gulf Coast Machine and Supply Company; Henry J. LeBlanc, Sr., of Port Arthur, President of the Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas;

Also Ingram C. Pace, manager of the Texas Forestry Exposition at Livingston; David Read, Silsbee newspaper man, Silsbee; John S. Redditt, attorney, Lufkin; Lance Rossier of Saratoga; Charles Schmucker of the First Security National Bank of Beaumont; Lee B. Sheffield, manager of Magnolia Lumber and Supply of Beaumont; Garland Shepherd of Beaumont; R. E. (Bob) Smith of Houston; Chief Cooper Sylestine of the Alabama-Coushatta Indians; Clyde Thompson, Vice President of Southern Pine Lumber Company, Diboll; Mayor Robert Willis, Jr., of Livingston; and Herbert O. Wilson, manager of the Fredonia Hotel, Nacodoches.

(Whereupon, at 12:05 p.m., the subcommittee was recessed to reconvene at 1:30 p.m., the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Senator BIBLE. Our first witness this afternoon is Mr. Edward C. Fritz, Texas Committee on Natural Resources. Mr. Fritz.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD C. FRITZ, CHAIRMAN, TEXAS COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, DALLAS, TEX.

Mr. FRITZ. Senator Bible and the great Senator Yarborough as chairman of the Texas Committee on Natural Resources, a nonprofit organization of State conservation leaders, I first endorse the statement heretofore made on behalf of the Big Thicket Coordinating Committee, of which we are a part, and we have brought along six additional resolutions in support of Senate bill 4, for 100,000 acres or more, the connected corridors or connected trailways planned that are on the map that was prepared for Senator Yarborough by the National Park Service, and I would like to submit these to be added to Senator Yarborough's blue brochure of these objectives.

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, they will be received.

Mr. FRITZ. I am pleased to announce the creation of a very marvelous national organization, Nature Conservancy, Inc., with which Senator Yarborough has attempted to work to save some of these areas which are used up in the interim until his bill is passed.

This organization has endorsed S. 4. They were asked to testify, and I am testifying on behalf of them as well as the Texas Committee on Natural Resources.

Senator BIBLE. I know about the endorsement. I am very familiar with the group.

Mr. FRITZ. Another group that has just endorsed it is the Garden Clubs of America and the Magnolia Garden Club of Beaumont will present their endorsement of your bill.

What I would like to state, and that is, the six reasons that conservationists feel that this area should, by all means, be the 100,000 acres or more instead of the 35,000 acres proposal.

Senator BIBLE. Of course, I would be happy to have people address themselves plainly to that; if they are for it and if they are against it, they can state their viewpoints. But size is one of the problems and I think by limiting the testimony you become a more effective witness.

We will be very happy to hear you on that point.

Mr. FRITZ. Thank you, Senator.

I will do anything to become more effective.

Senator BIBLE. Well, you are starting out the afternoon in good tone.

Mr. FRITZ. Thank you.

No. 1 is that the connected waterway system that you see on the map there includes superb recreation, which the pure pearls does not because it is limited primarily to ecological preservation, and this is an area that is marvelous for recreation facilities.

As you will see when you go up the Neches River, there is a lot of beautiful wilderness up and down that river and that should definitely be in any plan, that entire connection, and as you go down the right-hand side there you will see that it connects the Beech Creek unit with only a short trail overland over to the Neches, it connects the Clear Forks Bog unit, it is over in the top, and the dam B, and you see all the way up to there can be a connected trail right on down the side of dam B which is the only part owned by the Federal Government and then on the Neches River down the right-hand side of that map taking in the Beech Creek unit with a slight overlaying trail, Joe's Lake, the Neches Bottom unit and right down to the Beaumont unit.

This ought to be connected by all means. This ought to be a trail down there, there ought to be float trips right down there available down that stream with 5 or 10 miles for primitive camping and getting on those white sands which I hope you will observe carefully and I know you will when you take your tour this afternoon.

The second reason, in addition to the superb recreation that the larger plan takes in, the connected waterways embrace the ecological areas in buffer zones.

Ecological areas separated from everything else have a great difficulty in maintaining themselves but if they can have this broad connection all the way down the river, all the way outside up Pine Island Bayou, and up Menard Creek and joining with Village Creek, that will maintain their ecological area.

It will make room for the seeds to move up and down and for the animals to move up and down and it will have a tremendous advantage in that respect and then down Village Creek, right down the heart of it and all those tributaries you see on the map down there gives an opportunity for a superb web of trailways, which, going all the way around there, with a couple of overlaying connections on the north would mean a 100-mile trail, where families could go, where individuals could, stopping every 5 or 10 miles at primitive campsites if they so desired or hiking on the 20 miles if they wished, per day.

Now, then, the third one is that they save the visitor from driving through commercialized areas in getting from one ecological pearl to another.

As you will note and as is one of the challenges of Thicket national area, there are towns scattered in there, there are highways scattered in there, there are commercialized developments of all kinds, some junky and the web systems avoid the junky part and enables the tourist and visitor to go all around here in wilderness all the way with the exception of crossing an occasional highway, for example, down the right-hand side on the Neches River from the bridge at the

superb highway down to Evadae is about 50 miles which has no bridge and you can get on there and really get away from it all. You can get all of the wilderness advantages.

Now, and that leads into the fourth, they are afforded a wilderness experience and we hope even from a helicopter you can sense how you could get away from the foibles of mankind and from all the developments and technocracy for a period and up and down the rivers is the way you can do it as a distance.

If you just plunge into and cut across one of these riverways or streamways, well, then, it is a shortcut then if you follow along it, you have wilderness and tall trees and beautiful rivers and good swimming facilities, fishing facilities, all the way around this whole Big Thicket area without ever getting into a city or getting onto a highway.

Now then, five, help facilitate the interpretive mission and in this respect the Big Thicket was made of streamways, the streamways ferreted out the pleistocene soil, that is the basis for the best part of this ecosystem, and so by having the streamways, the heart of the interpretive mission of the national area which is so important to any national area, well, then, you can really bring it across and show how the seven types of plant communities that all converge in this one little area were formed because of the work of the streamways, in their floods, deposits of sands in good soil, and clean white beaches and in their developing these tall forests that grow particularly and best now along the streamways, and that remain best along the streamways.

Finally, the interconnection of the choice samples, so as to form a single unit, will make possible a better quality of management. Instead of trying to administer isolated spots up to 25 air miles apart, why, the National Park Service could service the area from one end to the other as in all the existing national park monuments and recreation areas, and in dealing with the State and counties involved and the local people, the Federal Government will have greater efficiency per acre by having a connection all the way around the new national area.

Now, then, there are some reasons, disadvantages of the smaller area which are sort of corollaries of the advantages of the larger area.

One of them is that the limited approach would not provide hunting areas and provides areas so small the ecosystem would suffer if part of them were used for camping.

If you just take the nine smaller black areas there, we are not talking about the Saratoga unit which is not included in the 35,000-acre plan, you take the nine smaller ones and there isn't really room to pack a lot of campers in there to put roads back and forth in there, and to have any hunting actually.

They should be preserved, those are emeralds, a better word than pearls, because they are so green and they should be preserved.

The rest of it should be used for recreation area for getting the people in and out and so forth, you see.

Even in the rest of it we hope they will use existing roads there with the possible exception of one or two more roads that would lead into these primitive campsites or given additional access to people who want to get in and out of there.

Now, the recreation value of the streams for—

Senator BIBLE. You are 12 minutes along the way just by way of caution.

Mr. FRITZ. Then, Senator, maybe I had better stop, do you think so?

Senator BIBLE. Wind it up.

Mr. FRITZ. All right, sir.

I will say that another disadvantage is that the isolated segments would be vulnerable to becoming surrounded by commercial developments and other forms of urban encroachment. A substantial portion, a third is that a substantial portion of visitors to the scattered pockets of nature would be disappointed and discouraged by having to drive through civilization often of a junky nature from one unit to the other.

The fourth reason the pearls are not large enough, the maximum one of those pearls or emeralds is 6,100 acres, extra for the ultra thin profile units. It is long enough but that is all to absorb the anticipated crowds and still permit a wilderness experience.

The fifth is except for two small stretches along the Neches River, there would be very little riverfront among the emeralds to illustrate the role of streams in the evolution of Big Thicket.

And the supervision would have to be dispersed in private holdings to reach the isolated pearls.

There are some very important points with regard to the lumber companies view of this, but in view of the shortness of time—

Senator BIBLE. The record will be left open for 14 days and you can analyze it and we will let you put it in the record.

I am not trying to run you off, we are not going to get aboard the helicopter to visit what you wish us to see.

Mr. FRITZ. I want to rebut many of the points, Senator Bible, and I leave it at that.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

Mr. FRITZ. Yes, sir.

(Mr. Fritz's prepared statement and resolutions referred to follow:)

STATEMENT OF EDWARD C. FRITZ, CHAIRMAN, TEXAS COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, DALLAS, TEX.

As chairman of the Texas Committee on Natural Resources, a nonprofit organization of state conservation leaders, I first endorse the statement heretofore made on behalf of the Big Thicket Coordinating Committee, of which we are a part.

We should establish a national area in the Big Thicket of Southeast Texas, virtually everyone agrees. Conservationists generally believe that the national area should include zones along both sides of the three major streams of the Big Thicket and some of their tributaries. These streams connect choice samples of biotic communities, all of which lie close to the waterways. The forest products executives generally feel that only a few scattered areas should be taken out of private exploitation. They still favor the nine¹ units proposed by a National Park Service study team in 1967, although the plan was wisely expanded by a study team report in 1968 to include narrow zones along both sides of the streams. So far as the public knows, neither report has been adopted by the Department of the Interior.

The stream zone approach is known as the connected waterways, connected trails, or environmental corridors. The scattered samples approach is referred to as the unstrung pearls. The connected waterways will comprise 100,000 acres

¹ Changed to ten in September, 1968, by cutting Profile Unit in two.

or more. Senator Ralph Yarborough has introduced a bill, S. 4, calling for at least this size. We endorse this bill. The unstrung pearls would involve about 35,500 acres. Congressmen John Dowdy and Earle Cabell have introduced H.R. 14391 calling for a maximum of 35,000 acres. There are various possibilities in between.

The advantages of the connected waterways are:

1. They include superb recreation.
 2. They embrace the choice ecological areas in buffer zones.
 3. They save the visitor from driving through commercialized areas in getting from one ecological pearl to the other.
 4. They afford a wilderness experience.
 5. They facilitate the interpretive mission.
 6. They enable the efficiency of park management to increase.
- Now let us elaborate on those six advantages.

1. The corridors along the streams will provide a major recreational area for boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, camping and hunting.

These pursuits will attract a broader range of visitors to the key areas where they will absorb the ecological values.

At the same time, the connected trails will reduce adverse pressures on the choice pearls by siphoning off the demand for hunting, fishing and camping.

We are approaching a drastic need for the preservation of such recreational corridors because of (1) the burgeoning growth of population from Houston to Orange, in particular, and everywhere else, in general, (2) the increase of leisure time, (3) our growing capacity to travel from the north to the region of year-round camping, (4) the conversion of natural forests into slash-pine plantations, commercial zones and suburbs, and (5) the persistence of the hunting club system, which in effect excludes certain segments of the population from use of remaining natural areas.

2. The environmental corridors will afford better protection for the choice Biological Areas by embracing them in buffer zones, so that they could not become isolated pockets in a matrix of urbanization, cut off from the interflow of animals, plant seeds, pure air and water which support a thriving ecosystem.

3. The flow of visitors along the streams, by boat, and the trails, by foot, will enable these visitors to obtain a far more wholesome aesthetic experience than if they had to drive thirty miles through commercialized districts to get from one unit of the national area to another, as would be the case in the unstrung pearls. Many of the existing roadsides between the proposed pearls are featured by beer joints, filling stations, factories, shopping centers, towns, cities, and housing, both standard and sub-standard. These roads are often crowded with traffic.

Although we could build a new roadway directly connecting all the units, bypassing the highly developed places, such construction would be expensive, would cut up additional stands of forest, and would involve the damaging of numerous sections of streams where bridges must be built.

4. The long corridors of nature along the streams of the Big Thicket, along which trails will run for a total distance of more than two hundred miles, will make possible a wilderness experience for thousands of park visitors, where man can escape the sights and sounds of civilization, can enjoy the beauties of nature unmarred by technocracy, and can venture but not remain. Most, if not all of us, can benefit psychologically by such an experience, and some of us need it deeply. The streams of the Big Thicket offer us our best remaining possibility for the preservation of a wilderness in the South. We would ruin this opportunity if we limited ourselves to 35,000 acres split into ten separated units, each of which would be subject to heavy tourist pressure and would be covered in part by parking facilities, information centers and logistic development.

5. Since the Pleistocene soil which forms the foundation for the upper Big Thicket was carved out of the earth and was deposited along the corridors by the clear, tannin-colored streams, and since the floods, meanderings, ox-bows and sloughs are so vital in explaining the different combinations of plant and animal life, the inclusion of the streams facilitates the interpretive mission of the national area.

6. The interconnection of the choice samples so as to form a single unit will make possible a better quality of management. Instead of trying to administer isolated spots, up to 25 air miles apart, the National Park Service could service the area from one end to the other, as in all the existing national parks, monuments and recreation areas. In dealing with the state and the six counties in-

volved, and local people, the federal government will have greater efficiency per acre. Also, here again, by controlling the floodplains for the entire distance between ecological units, the government can better assure the pollution control, flood periodicity, erosion protection and the maintenance of a comprehensive aesthetic plan which are necessary to the preservation of the ecological gems, both physically and aesthetically.

The obvious disadvantage of the big approach to the Big Thicket is the cost of buying the additional land. None of the land contemplated by either plan is owned by the federal government except some land around Dam B on the Neches River. The state owns only the beds of three streams. At a present estimate of \$200 per acre average, it would cost thirteen million dollars to buy the 65,000 acres by which the conservationist plan exceeds the plan of the forest products industry, and an estimated \$100,000 additional for construction of trails and campsites.

The question is whether we want to pay for adequacy. Thirteen million dollars is only 1/100 of the 1968 U.S. budget for foreign aid (1.380 billion), only 1/8 of the more than 100 million dollars in loans for rural recreation projects, mostly country clubs, guaranteed by the Farmers Home Administration since 1963, and less than 1/60 of the 86 million dollars to be spent in developing a supersonic transport. In contrast to these projects, the expenditure on the Big Thicket would buy us a permanent preserve, for all posterity.

Thirteen million dollars will cost an average of fifteen cents per person in the United States.

Another alleged disadvantage of the broader plan is that it will remove almost three times as much land from taxation by the counties as would the 35,000 acre proposal. Using Hardin County figures, which are typical, the current rendered valuation is \$83.37 per acre for timber land, and the current tax assessment rate is 20%. This gives a tax assessment of \$16.68 per acre against which to apply a county tax of 42 cents per hundred dollars. The total tax loss of removing 65,000 acres from the tax rolls of the six counties will be \$45,864.00 per year an average of less than \$8,000.00 per county.

This tax loss will be more than offset by the increased business which a national area would bring to the communities. A recent study by the National Park Service reflects that visitors to Mesa Verde National Park poured 9.5 million dollars into the economy of Cortez in 1968, and that in a climate which has a much longer off-season than the Big Thicket. Such gains are reflected in increased tax revenues.

In Cortez, there has been a 25% increase in motels, alone, in the past five years, long after the Park was in full use. A greater rate of growth would occur in the early years of the Big Thicket National Area.

The only comparative advantage of the unstrung pearls would be the lesser cost. This approach has many disadvantages, which are the reverse of the advantages of the environmental corridors approach.

1. The limited approach would not provide hunting areas, and provides areas so small that the ecosystems would suffer if part of them were used for camping. The recreational value of the streams for float trips and the stream borders for trails would be vastly diminished, especially if the owners and lessors continue to post their banks against trespassing, a practice which now leads to numerous criminal complaints against citizens.

2. The isolated segments would be vulnerable to becoming surrounded by commercial development and other forms of urban encroachment, which would ultimately affect their natural drainage, would cut off the ingress and egress of wildlife, and would pollute the air and water.

3. A substantial portion of visitors to the scattered pockets of nature would be disappointed and discouraged by having to drive through civilization, often of a junky nature, from one unit to another. Many would give up after reaching two or three of the nine pearls, and would never again return to the region.

4. The pearls are not large enough (maximum 6,100 acres), except for the ultra-thin Profile Unit, to absorb the anticipated crowds and still to permit a wilderness experience.

5. Except for two short stretches alongside the Neches River, there would be very little riverfront in the pearls to illustrate the role of streams in the evolution of the Big Thicket.

6. Supervision would have to be dispersed across predominantly private holdings to reach the isolated pearls. Constant conflict would arise between the Na-

tional Park Service and surrounding landowners as to control of tree diseases, predators, erosion and pesticides, as to the loss of livestock and dogs in the pearls, and other problems.

A reasonable analysis of these advantages and disadvantages will lead the unbiased person to the conclusion that the Congress should adopt the environment corridors approach for a larger, connected federal area.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SPENDING OF VISITORS TO MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK
news release—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, Santa Fe, N. Mex., June 20, 1969

Visitors to Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado contributed an estimated \$9,533,000 in gross expenditures to the surrounding economy in 1968, the Southwest Regional Office of the National Park Service reported today.

This outpouring of travel money also had the following beneficial effects, the report said: Produced \$7,149,800 in personal income for Mesa Verde area people and others living on routes between visitor point of origin and the park yielded \$1,430,000 in Federal taxes.

Regional Director Frank F. Kowski said the figures are based on research techniques used by Dr. Ernst W. Swanson, North Carolina State University economist. Dr. Swanson recently completed a "Study of the Impact of National Park System Travel on the National Economy in 1967."

Comparing the 1968 National Park System appropriation of \$593,600 for Mesa Verde National Park with the \$7,149,800 in personal income realized from Mesa Verde visitor spending, Kowski noted the estimated \$12 to —1 return on the dollar.

In Dr. Swanson's national parks study, the economist said "personal income resulting from national park spending is quite sizable as a matter of gain to the Nation from assets being preserved for posterity. Unlike the mining and the oil industries which give up nonrenewable resources, the National Park System yields its contributions with little or no diminution of its resource values."

While the enjoyment and enrichment of a National Park System experience cannot be evaluated in monetary terms, Dr. Swanson said, "dollar signs can be placed on the values to the nation of the travel outlays and expenditures arising from visits to these assets."

Editor's note: The gross expenditures figure is obtained by multiplying the average visitor's daily expenditure by the average number of days per visit (4), and this result by the adjusted number of visitors. The average daily expenditure is an estimate derived from the park, State and regional studies. The number of days per visit is obtained from a 1967 marketing study prepared for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation by Arthur D. Little, Inc. Number of visits is an adjusted automobile license count made from June through August 1968. To adjust for day visitors, transients and double counting, only 70 percent of the total visitation is used.

The personal income figure is based on Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that *direct* personal income runs about 30 percent of gross outlay. To account also for *indirect* personal income, Dr. Swanson applied, after extensive research, a factor of 2.5 to direct personal income. The result is total personal income. The Treasury Department estimates that roughly 20 percent of total personal incomes goes into Federal taxes.

RESOLUTIONS

ARLINGTON KIWANIS CLUB

Arlington Kiwanis Club, does hereby adopt the Policy Statement on The Big Thicket National Area, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes, and urges the President of the United States, the Congress, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Corps of Engineers (as to Dam B), and the appropriate state agencies (as to supplemental state and historic parks) to take appropriate action to implement this policy as soon as possible.

SUNDAY EVENING ECOLOGY STUDY GROUP

Sunday Evening Ecology Study Group of First United Methodist Church, Dallas, does hereby adopt the Policy Statement on The Big Thicket National Area, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes, and urges the President of the United States, the Congress, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Corps of Engineers (as to Dam B), and the appropriate state agencies (as to supplemental state and historic parks) to take appropriate action to implement this policy as soon as possible.

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NORTHLAKE, DALLAS, TEX.

The Exchange Club of Northlake, Dallas, Texas, does hereby adopt the Policy Statement on The Big Thicket National Area, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes, and urges the President of the United States, the Congress, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Corps of Engineers (as to Dam B), and the appropriate state agencies (as to supplemental state and historic parks) to take appropriate action to implement this policy as soon as possible.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, DALLAS BRANCH, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

The Executive Board, Dallas Branch, AAUW, does hereby adopt the Policy Statement on The Big Thicket National Area, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes, and urges the President of the United States, the Congress, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Corps of Engineers (as to Dam B), and the appropriate state agencies (as to supplemental state and historic parks) to take appropriate action to implement this policy as soon as possible.

THE FELLOWSHIP CLASS, COCHRAN CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Fellowship Class does hereby adopt the Policy Statement on The Big Thicket National Area, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes, and urges the President of the United States, the Congress, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Corps of Engineers (as to Dam B), and the appropriate state agencies (as to supplemental state and historic parks) to take appropriate action to implement this policy as soon as possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Environmental Action does hereby adopt the Policy Statement on The Big Thicket National Area, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes, and urges the President of the United States, the Congress, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Corps of Engineers (as to Dam B), and the appropriate state agencies (as to supplemental state and historic parks) to take appropriate action to implement this policy as soon as possible.

(Subsequent to the hearing, Mr. Fritz submitted the following supplemental statement:)

POST-HEARING STATEMENT OF EDWARD C. FRITZ

A. PROPOSED LAY-OUT OF NATONAL AREA

The Big Thicket National Area should be totally inter-connected as indicated on the sketch in the Public Hearing Alert of the Wilderness Society, attached hereto,¹ and as delineated in the draft bill attached.

¹ Note that Clear Fork and Rush Creek have been added by me to the northernmost nexus of trails, thus connecting the Clear Fork Bog Unit with the other units, and adding a rich community of ferns and mosses.

B. REBUTTAL TO SOME POINTS OF TIMBER COMPANY WITNESSES

Timber Company Point 1: There is very little virgin timber left, so little is worth saving.

Rebuttal: Second and third-growth stands retain a climax state rapidly in the wet climate and rich soil of the Thicket. Pine trees become large in fifty years; beech, magnolia and oaks form a closed canopy in less than a hundred. Although the timber companies are operating generally on a ten-year cutting cycle, some stands for various reasons have escaped the chain saw and bulldozer for close to fifty years. Soon after the federal government purchases the tracts proposed for the Big Thicket National Area and stops the cutting, most of the timber along the connected streamways and in the Saratoga Unit will regain all the ecological and aesthetic values of a climax forest.

Timber Company Point 2: The timber companies are now taking good care of the forest, so there is no need to create a large national area. Rebuttal: The timber companies are in fact destroying the ecosystem in five ways:

First, they are admittedly converting all feasible tracts into one species tree plantations, the one species being either slash pine or loblolly pine. They start each such plantation by bulldozing all the vegetation, leaving only a barren sand field. Through various management practices, they prevent most of the species from returning. A one species plantation has no value ecologically or aesthetically. Mr. Jim Webster testified that Kirby Lumber Company owns 515,000 acres in the Big Thicket region, yet its largest tree plantation is 3,200 acres. He never stated the total acreage in tree plantations. The timber companies are pocket-marking the Big Thicket with pine plantations at the admitted rate of 35,000 acres per year. With new equipment they are now stepping up this rate.

Second, the timber companies have almost completely abandoned single-tree selective cutting. They are harvesting many areas in a ten-year interval between cuts, with a rotation age of fifty years, generally through clear-cutting several acres at a time. Such clear cutting nowadays involves the annihilation of all plant life, to leave plenty of sunlight for the oncoming pine trees. On a one-hundred acre tract, the loggers would clear-cut 25 acres every ten years, so that fifty years later the first clear-cut tract will be subjected to another cutting. Thus the forest never reaches a climax stage under timber company practices. Many species of plants and animals are disappearing as a result.

Third, the timber companies have failed to set aside for permanent preservation any substantial samples of typical plant communities. They have recently laid out a few short nature trails, but these are inadequate in every way. They have donated two five-acre campsites to Hardin County. But they have thus far failed to donate any Big Thicket natural area for preservation in spite of long willingness on the part of The Nature Conservancy, Inc., to obtain a one-thousand acre preserve from each company. The timber companies have not even established an ecosystem preserve of their own, and if they did, there would be nothing to stop them from cutting it in a pinch. Thus, the only hope for preservation is the government.

Fourth, the timber companies are locking out the public from their best areas. Southwestern Timber, a subsidiary of Eastex, Inc., recently constructed gates at two points on Joe's Lake Road, blocking the public from another vast acreage. One hundred thousand acres of Neches River bottom are closed to all who do not join an industry-sustained hunting club. Non-members who are caught by private wardens on these lands during hunting season are turned over to local authorities on various charges.

Fifth, the timber companies sell or lease substantial acreages along roads and streams for commercial, residential and recreational development, particularly hunting and fishing camps. Through this practice, they reveal that they are not perpetuating the forest as a source of wood products for the future use of man, but are, instead, exploiting the land for the largest available profit. With such motivation, moral though it may be, the timber companies cannot be expected to manage the land for its best use in the public interest. Our hope is for the public to acquire, to plan and to manage the land.

Timber Company Point 3: The government should not "lock up" large acreages to preserve one species of azalea or orchid.

Rebuttal: In connecting the nine proposed units by means of corridors along the principal streams, we shall be preserving ecosystems, comprised of numerous species of plants and animals. The azaleas and orchids of the Big Thicket are merely showy parts of typical plant communities, in which many species are interdependent.

Moreover, rather than locking up these key areas, the government would be opening them up to greater public use, preferably along established trails and water routes.

Some of these areas, away from trails, would not even be closed to logging. The industry could continue to harvest timber if the companies would limit themselves to single-tree selective cutting on an eighty year rotation, as in some northern forests. The easement approach could be used for such a restriction.

Timber Company Point 4: Lake Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend contain 135,000 and 180,000 surface acres and many shorelines which are not yet full of people, so we should fill them before we create any new national area. Rebuttal: The timber company executives cooperated with the flooding of these huge forested areas, so they are inconsistent when they object to a smaller acreage of national streamways. An ever-increasing number of people are turning to an ever-decreasing number of free-flowing streams for their recreation. In order to offer a diversity of recreational opportunities to please the diverse taste of recreationists, the government should offer streamway hiking, hunting and fishing in addition to reservoir mechanized sports. The streamways of the Big Thicket, long and sparsely developed, afford a wilderness experience which is totally lacking on the giant man-made lakes which are not only unnatural but are noisy with motor-boats. Moreover, the tourist pressure is hitting such heights that to handle it all we shall soon be needing all of our potential recreation areas—lake-oriented and land-and-stream oriented. Finally, the big lakes, with their inundations and draw-downs, damage rather than protect the ecosystems, while the Big Thicket National Area would enable us to protect key samples of ecology.

Timber Company Point 5: The creation of a national area will decrease jobs. Rebuttal: First, the timber companies own somewhat near a million acres in the Big Thicket region. They also harvest timber by contract formula by small owners. The withdrawal of 100,000 acres from timber harvesting would affect less than five per cent of their field operations. If, as anticipated, portions of the Big Thicket National Area were left open to individual-selection timber harvesting, the percentage reduction of timber company operations would be even smaller. Since more manpower is required for such single-tree selective harvesting, the percentage of job reductions caused by federal acquisitions would be negligible. Second, any loss of jobs in the timber industry would be more than offset by the jobs which would be created as a result of travel expenditures in the national area. In *Travel and the National Parks, An Economic Study*, Ernst W. Swanson, 1969, published by the National Park Service, it is reported at p. 20:

"Thus, we may say that at Grand Teton National Park travel expenditures find their way into the pockets of merchants and their employees of Jackson Hole and adjacent communities, service station owners and their employees, hotel and motel owners and their employees, restaurant owners and their employees, sightseeing bus owners and their employees, etc. Moreover, these people spend money in the local area for goods and services which partly generate further income (through the multiplier effects of spending) and for imports of goods and services only a minor portion of which (returns to importing organizations) is gross income to the region. The final "sum" for all parks of the *direct* and *indirect* personal incomes thus provides us an approximation to the localized effects upon the Nation of travel to parks.

"It is of value to note, that some locales or regions which enjoy the facilities and virtues of a national park derive much of their "living" from the presence of the park. In the case of the Jackson Hole country, for example, the local residents depend more than 50 percent for their "living" upon the travel expenditures in the area surrounding Grand Teton National Park."

When we consider that Teton and most other national parks do not enjoy the full year-round tourist opportunities of Southeast Texas, we must realize that the Big Thicket National Area will create more jobs in the travel industry than it will curtail in the timber industry.

Moreover, the local economy will benefit by coming out of the suppressing economic domination of one or two industries. Timber Company Point 6:

Kirby Lumber Company restricts cutting for 100 feet back from the larger streams.

Rebuttal: Kirby can change this policy at any time, with no notice to any one else. The other timber companies have not adopted such a policy. I have recently seen where one major company bulldozed trees and earth right into the

water of Village Creek, and another major company cut trees to the bank of the Neches River, letting the tops fall into what had been a gem of an ox-bow lake adjoining the river.

The timber companies all sell or lease lots along the streams to individuals who cut trees, build cabins, build docks and dispose of cans and garbage alongside or into the streams.

Since the timber companies are taxed for their land alongside the streams, they cannot, in all fairness, be expected to preserve such land for public use alone. The financial squeeze is upon them to harvest the timber or to sell lots. They should be relieved of the tax burden of preservation by being offered a fair market price by the federal government.

The only way the streamways can be permanently preserved is by public acquisition and management. Timber Company Point 7:

Conservationists are not familiar with the Big Thicket and do not know what they are talking about.

Rebuttal: Some of the proponents of the connected streamways plan for a national area of 112,000 to 200,000 acres have spent a great deal of time in the Big Thicket studying its resources and their best use, and have read the scientific articles concerning the area. Personally, I have spent about eighty days in the Big Thicket, over a period of three years, inspecting the natural areas and considering their best use and their adaptability to national management for recreation and preservation. I have discussed these matters with officials of three timber companies and the National Forest Service, and appeared on the official program of the annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters in Miami, Florida, in October, 1969. I have spoken on the Big Thicket before numerous organizations, including locally the Hardin County Commissioners Court and the Jasper, Newton, Hardin, and Tyler County Dog and Wildlife Protective Association, comprising the local resident hunters, and nationally before the Izaak Walton League, The Wilderness Society, and the Board of Directors of the Citizens Committee on Natural Resources. I have led field trips and float trips in the area. Along with two other persons, I inspected and recommended the incomparable Joe's Lake Unit as a substitute for the Tanner Bayou Unit, which recommendation was followed by the second study team of the National Park Service. I was a co-author in 1967 of the connected streamways, or environmental corridor, plan which 60 conservation groups have now adopted. I have even worked on private plans for conservation and recreation in the Big Thicket, including as new area chairman of the Texas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Inc. I have visited every proposed unit and streamway of the national area and have camped out in most of them. I have visited several times as many Big Thicket areas as those which we recommend for inclusion.

As a result, I feel that conservationists do know and understand the Big Thicket from all angles, and that our proposal of a connected national area is abundantly sound.

Timber Company Point 8:

The conservationists should work with the timber companies for best development of the tourist and recreation potential. Rebuttal: Three times the conservationists set up meetings with leaders of the Texas Forestry Association to work out a mutually acceptable plan and three times the industry leaders backed out. Conservationists are willing to try again. The timber people should engage in serious and unbiased discussion with a broad-based segment of our Coordinating Committee on the merits of our proposal and of theirs. But the progress of S 4 should not be delayed pending such an unlikely development.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Miss Peggy Amerson.

STATEMENT OF PEGGY A. AMERSON, MOUNT PLEASANT, TEX.

Miss AMERSON. Mr. Chairman, Senator Yarborough, as a free-lance writer and photographer, I have been coming—

Senator BIBLE. Put the microphone just a little bit closer, if you will, so the audience will hear you.

Miss AMERSON. I have cut my statement down considerably in order to save time.

As a freelance writer and photographer, I have been coming into the Big Thicket for the past 3 years, photographing it for a book.

I have found this area to be one of the richest in its variety of plant and animal life of any I have ever worked in. I have discovered that the Thicket is not one place but several with each of the areas being referred to as communities or ecosystems by knowledgeable biologists, botanists, and ecologists. Each of the areas provides an unparalleled outdoor laboratory for everyone interested in any of the natural subjects.

These areas consist of the beech-magnolia-loblolly, palmetto-cypress-tupelo, upland pine savanna, wetland pine savanna, streambottom-hardwood, acid bog-haygall and the arid sandyland.

These areas will be more fully explained by Mrs. Watson later in her statement.

I would like to make this point, there is no existing national area and in fact, no other area in the world that embraces such a diversity of ecosystems.

From this rich area, ecologists and other scientists may learn some of the secrets of the interrelationships of living beings which will assist mankind in the long struggle for a quality environment.

We need this area.

Senator BIBLE. Paul Kramer, director, Texas Forest Service, Texas Station, Tex.

STATEMENT OF PAUL R. KRAMER, DIRECTOR, TEXAS FOREST SERVICE

Mr. KRAMER. Mr. Chairman, Senator Yarborough, I am Paul Kramer, director of the Texas Forest Service.

This is the State agency responsible for the management, development, and utilization of private forest lands in Texas.

In our opinion the Big Thicket land use problem in Texas has been so ineptly handled by so many people for such a long time that we have now reached the point where we have become involved in a series of controversies.

Controversies are, by their nature, disputations of opinion. Invariably, such disputations lead to the concentration of attention on individuals or groups rather than on the validity of opinions and viewpoints. This inevitably leads us to the point where the combative process prevents any reasonable analysis of the factors involved in the true equation; in this case, the Big Thicket area.

It is quite likely that the agency that I represent has a greater familiarity with the area in question than anyone save the owners' representatives or a very few nature enthusiasts.

A careful, professional evaluation of the vaguely definable, heterogeneous area known as the Big Thicket readily points to the conclusion that the area is not suitable for a national park if we choose to define such a park as a moderately large-sized area having pre-eminent characteristics indispensable for posterity.

On the other hand, such a professional evaluation, without question, also indicates that there are several ecosystems and a number of general areas highly desirable not only for permanent preservation

but also for knowledge factories requisite to our future land use needs. The point that is being assayed here is that the productivity of land is not solely measured in goods and services available to the users of our environment. Some land and water areas have a priceless potential as knowledge bases.

The attributes of such an area are generally those qualities which set the area apart from areas that have suffered from man's attention.

The Texas Forest Service suggests that several small portions of the Big Thicket be preserved, essentially in their present form, for the pleasurable and permanent use of people. They should be of unrestricted access.

Another, and possibly larger area, or series of areas, should be placed in minor-term trusts for the pursuit of basic knowledge relating to man and his changing environment. These could be trusted to qualified scientific organizations or educational institutions. They would and should be of definitely restricted access.

Mr. Chairman, I know how fond you are of brief statements and I have completed mine and I would, with your indulgence, like to take another 30 seconds to bring to the attention of this group a matter of related importance.

Senator BIBLE. You are granted 1 additional minute.

Mr. KRAMER. Thank you, sir.

I am quite pleased to appear before you again, as I did several weeks ago in Washington. At that time your committee was considering the measure for fire protection of the U.S. Forest Service, and while this audience may have divergent views on the matter under discussion here today, I think that they all hope that funds are increased for fire protection for our private forest lands, and therefore, I wish to apprise them of your committee's action in seeing that the \$2 million cut that had been made in Federal-State cooperative programs for fire protection for fiscal year 1971, was restored to the U.S. Forest Service budget, and the Texas Forest Service and the citizens of Texas.

Thank you for the continued support for the fire protection of all the States.

I might also add Senator Yarborough and Senator Tower and many of our east Texas Congressmen are in full support of the fire protection funds.

Senator BIBLE. That had good merit in it and was not particularly difficult to support, particularly in view of the devastation caused by your forest fires.

You got two points in, one on the subject ahead and one on the money matters.

Senator YARBOROUGH. May I say to Mr. Kramer before he leaves, Director Kramer may have gotten the impression this morning from my statement that I am opposed to the forestry industry—not at all. I grew up in Henderson County in a small town where the biggest income coming into that town was from short leaf and loblolly pine. It was all cut away and went into short-term cotton production and now going back to lumber. I have worked very diligently in my 13 years in the Senate to help the Texas Forestry Service and to help the prosperity of this area. I have worked on the problems of imports

of lumber, the Silverculture Laboratory at Nacogdoches which is the only one of its kind in the whole Pine Belt from Texas to the Atlantic Ocean, and many other projects.

I just think these 100,000 acres are so modest that the lumber industry should not object.

As a member of the Senate Appropriation Committee, I have been very concerned with industry problems. When the pine beetle was ruining our trees following the drought, appropriations were made to help control the problem, and then the hurricanes came in and assistance was given, all those matters we worked diligently for appropriations and we got appropriations. I am very concerned about the lumber industry in Texas, but I just hate to see them fighting a park of only 100,000 acres.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. We are delighted to have you here.

Our next witness is Professor Willard, department of zoology of the University of Texas.

STATEMENT OF PROF. DANIEL E. WILLARD, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Dr. WILLARD. Senator Bible and Senator Yarborough, thank you for inviting me to testify. I sent five copies airmail, special delivery on Tuesday morning.

Senator BIBLE. You may proceed. I have just as much trouble with airmail as you do.

Dr. WILLARD. I put about a dollar's worth of stamps on the thing.

I have taught vertebrate biology and ecology at the University of Texas for the last 4 years.

I would like to report on three contemporary ecological notions that pertain to the Big Thicket question.

Actually, it pertains to two questions, one, should we have a Big Thicket Park, and two, if so, what size and shape should it be.

Point 1: Environmental control.—The traditional pattern of scientific discovery contains no more vigorous dogma than the rules of controlled experiments. In these cases the following pattern is followed. You take two identical groups, and you watch them to be sure that they behave in the same fashion. Then you manipulate one of them, let's say you add "Go" juice. If after a period of time the one that was manipulated behaved in a certain fashion, then you can say this is probably connected with the "Go" juice.

Well, the parallel is obvious. We, the people of Texas and Louisiana are embarked upon a huge environmental experiment. We need areas set aside to act as controls. Only by comparison of our experiments with the controls can we hope to see the effects of our environmental manipulation.

It is also clear that a control area in the desert or in the mountains or in the ocean won't be of any value in checking our manipulations in the dense forests of east Texas.

The Big Thicket could be that control. Point 2: Ecological, stability, diversity and area.—Many ecologists these days are studying the relation of diversity to stability. The basic notion can be explained through use of food chain diagrams.

The simplest thing is, let's suppose you are in the Arctic and you have one plant eaten by a lemming, the lemming is eaten by the Arctic fox, that is all there is. It can obviously be seen if something happens to the lemmings, then the foxes starve and the plants get out of hand. If something happens to the foxes, the lemmings get out of hand and they overeat the plants. That kind of a food chain is basically unstable.

A more complex system is one that we have in most temperate regions in which there may be five or six or seven plants fed upon by separate herbivores. The best, one that has been studied is on the African Savanna. These herbivores, what happens is when one of the plants has a bad season, the herbivores just step over and pick up another kind. So the system has many, many kinds in it. Therefore, this system is basically stable, these systems with a great deal of diversity.

Now, there are two points that you can derive from this: first, that the economics of a forest area, such as east Texas, are much like one of the simpler chains dependent on a few products. The addition of a park with its attendant tourism would do much to widen the stability of this kind of a system. On a biological basis, within the piney woods is a natural ecosystem of great diversity. The multiple food pathways of the Big Thicket constitute a very stable, self-maintaining system, probably more diverse and stable than the example from Africa. But the studies haven't been done. (Perhaps central Africa has better press agents.) One of the key links in these chains is the large versatile predator.

The Big Thicket native species are largely extirpated: red wolf, black bear, and cougar. Many of these, of course, have been extirpated for one reason or another.

These species need to be reinstated.

The natural requirements of a cougar include about a 20 square mile home range. Obviously, one cougar won't do. You must have two, of opposite sexes. So we become committed to continuous areas of 40 square miles of appropriate cougar habitat.

These need not all be under the same administration, but the animals should be completely protected. In Texas this means patrolled. The frontier heritage lies close under the skin in most Texans, and unless strictly protected, traditional "varmints" are shot on sight.

Therefore, in order to maintain this diversity and stability, we need a natural area of some sort and, at least, some of the units, if not many units, of this system should be 25,000-30,000 acres.

Genetic variety: There are two closely connected points worth considering here: The notion of species reservoir, and the idea of the genetic adaptability of life. Perhaps it is only one idea.

There are many species of animals and plants that live only in these piney woods. You will hear arguments based on the morality of preserving these species per se. You will also hear about the esthetics of the area and of the species.

I shall not pursue these enjoyable topics, but the less passionate, more practical anthropocentric argument. Past experience has shown us that new wonder drugs, delicacies, and needed products came from unlikely places. For example, who would have thought that dirt mold would be the basis for penicillin? Quinine comes from a jungle tree. Many of our new varieties of food staples have little known wild re-

lations. The Big Thicket is a storehouse of as yet unused genetic combinations. You never know when you are going to need some new genes.

Maybe Lance Roizer's toothache tree has some new miracle ingredient for toothache cure. We need to keep these odd genetic parts around.

There is another way to look at it. It may just be a larger magnification of the same idea, but let's try it for size.

In central Florida there is a bird of prey, the Everglades kite. This relative of the hawks and falcons catches and eats but one species of snails, and that is all. If this snail is jeopardized, the kite is in trouble. He is so specialized, his bill has adapted into a pick for removing the snail from his shell. Recent unfortunate manmade changes in the environment of central Florida have caused the drying up of many marshes—killing the snails.

The kite has, so to speak, put all his eggs in one basket. He has become so specialized he can live in only one environment. That environment is drying up, and the bird has had it.

We human beings are unlike the kite in several ways, but there is a lesson for us. Americans only think they live in one environment, the city-suburb complex. We seem to try to change all land into this one system. We do not really accept the prediction that a model city would be unlivable, its air would be unbreathable, its water undrinkable, and its food unobtainable. Then, like the kite, we would realize that we were stuck. Having turned the world into one uninhabitable city, we would have destroyed all the options. We will have lost not only the species to inhabit other ecosystems but places in which to put them. By establishing a wild, diverse, ecologically stable Big Thicket, we keep an option open.

It would seem then that there are good ecological reasons for acquiring and maintaining a Big Thicket Park.

- (1) As a control in our environmental experiment.
- (2) Its diversity has a stabilizing effect on our ecosystem.
- (3) In this rapidly changing environment, we should keep our options open.

Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. A very fine statement.

Our next witness is Dr. Richard C. Harrel, Lamar State College, Beaumont, Tex.

Dr. Harrel.

STATEMENT OF DR. RICHARD C. HARREL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, LAMAR STATE COLLEGE

Dr. HARREL. After 30 witnesses all talking for the same thing, I have very little left to say. So I will make this short also.

As an instructor of ecology and fresh water biology at Lamar State College, our laboratory and our classroom for teaching the principles of ecology, understanding the environment, environmental control, the classroom is actually the Big Thicket and the area, or part of the area that is in consideration for the Big Thicket National Park.

In the short period of time that I have been in this area and utilizing the Big Thicket as an environmental laboratory for teaching or

for research, I have noted that at least half of the areas that I have been utilizing have been destroyed at least in part. The rapidity with which we secure this and get this park secured and protected is very, very urgent.

Also the size of the park is very important. The String of Pearls is simply not large enough, it does not encompass large enough areas.

If we destroy the drainage areas around these small areas, then they themselves will deteriorate. We must have large areas, they must be continuous, and this is the sum of my statement.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. It is not only a good statement, but one of the shortest. [Applause.]

Let's have order.

I will permit the students to salute the professors, but we will leave it to that because I think that is what we used to call a red apple in my day.

(Dr. Harrel's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF RICHARD C. HARREL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY,
LAMAR STATE COLLEGE

As the population of our country increases it becomes more important that representative ecological areas be set aside to be maintained in their natural states for future generations.

The area of the proposed Big Thicket National Park is worthy of preservation for future generations. It is biologically unique, and is rich in historical and esthetic value.

Real estate development and excessive clearing of the land are presently destroying this area at a rapid rate.

A large continuous area is more desirable than several isolated ones because development of adjacent lands could destroy small island-like communities.

Within the large area, unique areas such as "Devils Pocket Acid Bog" and parts of Village Creek and Neches River Bottom should be designated as "Wilderness Areas" with no development of roads, improved camping areas, or dams across the streams.

Our next professor is Dr. Russell Long, Lamar State College of Technology, Beaumont.

We have a fine U.S. Senator by that name from Louisiana.

Dr. LONG. That is my voting uncle.

Senator BIBLE. All right. Well, he is helpful, too.

STATEMENT OF PROF. RUSSELL J. LONG, PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY,
LAMAR STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Dr. LONG. Senator Bible, Senator Yarborough, I have been teaching a course at Lamar in vertebrate field biology for the past 18 years, and I have been a close friend of the late Lance Rozier, and this area is quite familiar to me. The manner of real estate development, subdivision development, in this Thicket is a real thing regardless of what anybody tells you, because when I take a snake class out hunting snakes, and there is a house there, then that becomes a serious matter.

As far as the size of the park is concerned, it is ecologically impossible to maintain a string of pearls. In other words, developments around these pearls will cutoff, as Dr. Harrel has said, will cutoff drainage and so forth and so on and you cannot maintain it. It is entirely impossible, and we simply must have more land just simply to maintain these places.

We are not going to have a heavy traffic of people directly into these areas, but they will be available for study, and if people want recreation, they can go to the lakes right there at the edge of them.

Thank you. [Applause.]

(The prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF RUSSELL J. LONG, PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, LAMAR STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

The area of the proposed Big Thicket National Park is biologically unique in that it is a meeting place of northern and southern, and eastern and western plants and animals.

Botanically it is one of the richest areas in the United States from the standpoint of the number of different species.

My work has been with amphibians and reptiles for the most part. The reptile and amphibian checklist for the area includes 12 salamanders; 4 toads; 13 frogs; 8 lizards; 33 snakes; the alligator; and 14 turtles.

Both plants and animals are at the mercy of the environment. Real estate development, clearing land with bulldozers and excess draining are destroying this habitat. Much has already been lost in the 19 years I have been at Lamar State College.

The area should be maintained in its natural state without additional roads. Adequate camping facilities already exist at Dam B., Sam Rayburn, and Toledo Bend Lakes. If any additional facilities were desirable they could be constructed at Saratoga and nearby towns.

The park should center on Pine Island Bayou, Village Creek and The Neches Bottom. Continuity is a necessity because isolated areas are vulnerable to drainage changes around them.

Enclosed are reprints on two snakes in the area.

Senator BIBLE. I will insist there be order or we will recess and go on the plane right now.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Long, you have one sentence here I want to refer to:

"The area should be maintained in its natural state without additional roads."

Now, this national park survey that was talked about in 1967 estimated that this would cost something nearly \$20 million but they were recommending a system of roads up and down the creeks, and to me that system of roads would destroy that.

Dr. LONG. We have plenty of roads in there right now.

Senator YARBOROUGH. It seems to me that the money would be put to much better use by buying land for the parks rather than investing it in roads. In addition, if roads are built, it could destroy a large part of the biological value of the area.

Senator BIBLE. I think I understand that point very well, that is the point we had in the Connecticut River with which the Director of the Park Service is well aware.

Our next witness is Mr. Stacy Cook, Southern Pine Plywood Co., Diboll, Tex.

STATEMENT OF STACY L. COOKE, PLANT MANAGER, SOUTHERN PLYWOOD CO., DIBOLL, TEX.

I would like to earnestly solicit your support against Senator Yarborough's bill, S. 4, on the Big Thicket. His bill calls for a Big Thicket Monument of not less than 100,000 acres: Congressman Dowdy and Earle Cabell have introduced a bill (H.R. 14391) which would call for

a 35,000 acre "Big Thicket String of Pearls" National Monument. We feel the smaller park is more reasonable and could be made in connection with parks that already exist.

Further, it would seem that the following matters should also invite our attention:

1. We would take out a considerable volume of timber that would otherwise be available to attain our national housing goal. I believe testimony was given concerning The National Timber Supply which suggests, at least, that timber inventories may not be sufficient to attain the demand anticipated in the years ahead.

2. Once committed to such a park, the older timber will eventually die and thus will be lost. Through a proper program of selective cutting and reforestation this problem would be eliminated.

3. As laymen, we are involving ourselves in a field which should be left to professional conservationists and foresters. Rather than bicker over the amount that should be included in such a park, it would appear that adequate funds and incentives should be given these two groups so that reconcilable ends might be met to accomplish the needs for recreation and at the same time, supply the timber so desperately needed to our industry at this time.

4. The spending of federal funds for the acquisition of such a monument at a time when inflation and taxes are taking a large part of the taxpayer's dollar, does not seem to be in keeping with good, sound practices of our government. An expenditure to support an adequate program to reconcile the ends of recreation and forestry management would be more meaningful.

It might be well if our conservationist groups, for example, took the time to determine what the true inventories are in relation to existing plant capacities, in terms of anticipated demand for solid wood products to meet our housing goals.

It would be sincerely appreciated if you would consider carefully the provisions of H.R. 14391 as opposed to S.4.

Senator BIBLE. The next witness is Mrs. Anella Dexter of the Texas Conservation Council of Houston.

Mrs. Dexter, your statement in full will be incorporated in the record.

STATEMENT OF ANELLA DEXTER, TEXAS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, HOUSTON, TEX.

Mrs. DEXTER. Senator Bible, Senator Yarborough. I am Anella Dexter of Houston, Tex.

I represent the Texas Conservation Council, a statewide organization dedicated to the protection of natural areas, the establishment and wise use of recreation areas, and the preservation of native wildlife. Mr. Dexter and I have a personal interest in the Big Thicket because we have been photographing and studying plant life there as a hobby ever since we came to Houston nearly 20 years ago.

About 10 years ago we became especially interested in the mushrooms in the area, and we are convinced this is one of the finest areas in the country for studying them.

Now, I am not going to give you all of what I had planned to say,

what I said in my report, because much of it would be repetitious, but I do want you to know what our organization is thinking about the Big Thicket.

We realize, of course, the tremendous need for outdoor recreation and the outstanding potential for recreation in the forests of east Texas but our primary reason for wanting a national park in the Big Thicket is preservation of the unique character of this fabulous area.

The Big Thicket is worth preserving as an important part of the pattern of primitive America. We use the term "Big Thicket" to mean not just the traditional Big Thicket in the Pine Island Bayou area but the larger, ecological area between the Sabine and the San Jacinto Rivers and roughly from Federal Highway 190 on the north to the coastal prairie on the south. This area, as you have heard again and again, is biologically unique as a result of a combination of sandy, well-erated soils and moisture retaining clays, a warm climate, and abundant rainfall plus topography that consists of upland areas, undrained depressions, and many spring-fed streams, rivers, and bayous. Each area has its own ecosystem.

There are many species of flowering plants, ferns, mosses, lichens, and fungi in the Big Thicket.

Bird life is abundant. There have been several sightings of the ivory bill woodpecker, as you have also heard.

We are quite convinced that we heard it one night.

The bear and the cougar have probably disappeared but raccoons, bobcats, and 'possums as well as countless reptiles and amphibians still make it their home. For them preservation of habitat offers the only hope for survival. For us it is a last chance to maintain a tremendously important outdoor laboratory.

We like the general plan for preservation shown on the map released by the study team of the National Park Service. They selected nine such areas and designated them as "Pearls" but their Preliminary Report of 1967 did not supply the string for their "String-of-Pearls" concept.

The newer plan proposes an Environmental Conservation Area that will include all of Hardin County and adjacent parts of Jasper, Polk, Tyler, and Liberty Counties. Within this environmental area the preservation of natural beauty will be the major consideration. The roads and waterways will be protected by scenic easements and will serve as connecting links between the nine natural areas. Some of the streams are excellent for canoeing and hiking trails along the streams will lead from one designated unit to another.

The nine units selected for preservation of their scientific value are excellent. They include a profile unit along Big Sandy and Menard Creeks and Pine Island Bayou, a Palmetoo Unit on Pine Island Bayou, Loblolly Pine Unit, a savannah, an acid bog unit, a beech-magnolia unit and three bottom land units on the Neches.

These add up to approximately 35,000 acres and encompass some of the best ecologically important areas. Perhaps another beech-magnolia unit should be selected because the one listed was cut after the preliminary survey was completed.

There is no provision for preserving a pitcher plant bog and we feel that one should be included.

We believe that some additions are needed. We would like to add protection for the entire flood plain of the Neches below Dam B, both because the ivory bill woodpecker requires large stands of hardwoods for survival and because this is an especially fine area for observing plant and animal life.

We would also like to add a wildlife refuge of approximately 40,000 acres in the Saratoga, Kountze, Sour Lake triangle bounded by Highways 326, 105, and 770.

This is the heart of the traditional "Tight-eye Thicket." It is essentially a flat area with grey clay and sand that remains wet enough for the palmetto-cypress-tupelo association. There are bay galls with sweet bay, large mahhaw patches and vines of every description to tie the trees and shrubs together. There are yaupon thickets and on the islands that rise above the flats there are some huge chinquapins. This is an excellent area for protecting and preserving the typical wildlife of the area and also for providing a source of game for the leased and public hunting areas around it. We would like to see it managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

These additions bring the total acreage to somewhat near 100,000 acres. We feel they are definitely needed if we are to have a park of national stature in the Big Thicket.

The important thing is to preserve as much of the ecological character of the area as is possible. Perhaps someone will suggest a better plan.

We will be glad to work with any agency or organization in order to reach the best possible solution.

There must also be some provision for general recreation in a national park. This area can provide recreation that is different from the recreation that we find along the reservoir lakes.

Recreational development in the specimen units should be limited to walking trails and these should be kept narrow so as not to break the forest canopy, because as soon as you do, things move in that have no business being there, if it is to be a natural area, and we do not want to endanger the scientific and educational values these areas are intended to protect. Since mass recreation and preservation simply are not compatible, we believe there should be no developed campgrounds or large recreational areas within the environmental conservation area.

There are a number of reservoir lakes outside this area—Sam Rayburn, Dam B, Toledo Bend, and Lake Livingston—that provide excellent opportunities for camping and water-oriented recreation. These can be more fully developed. There also are some fine camping areas in the national forests. We have suggested to the State parks and wildlife department that the Gravel Pit Lakes near Romayer would be excellent for a State park. They lie between Houston and the Big Thicket and would serve to take some of the pressure off the natural areas inside the environmental conservation area. Hunting, fishing, hiking, and primitive camping should be permitted in the scenic corridors along the streams and small picnic units should be established along the roads. Driving for pleasure has been voted the most popular of all outdoor recreational pursuits and wide scenic easements and opportunities to picnic along the way will make driving in this area a delightful experience.

History and legend are an important part of the Big Thicket story. Perhaps local governments or the State can preserve the Bragg Hotel in what was once a thriving sawmill town but is now almost a ghost town, and some of the early homes with their mud daub chimneys. We would like to see Ghost Road north of Saratoga protected by a scenic easement both because this 8-mile stretch of country road is so closely connected with Big Thicket lore and because of its beauty and botanical interest.

The economy of the Big Thicket will benefit from the establishment of a national park, and Dr. Cottam gave you some illustrations of that.

Economic studies not only at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, but also at Grand Teton National Park, and in other areas, have shown that the tourist industry caused big increases in the values of real and personal property, sales and use taxes, bank deposits, et cetera.

A "Study of the Economic Growth in Upper Michigan" showed that tourism was more profitable than mining, manufacturing or agriculture.

We do not believe that the proposed 100,000-acre national park will seriously harm the timber industry. Preserving easements along the roads will mean some loss in production. That, of course, is true. But the proposed environmental corridors along the streams are not particularly good for lumbering and some of the units would have to be drained to be harvested.

To summarize, the primary purpose for establishing a national park in the Big Thicket is preservation of an outstanding ecological area. Such a scientifically important area should not be locked up as it is under private ownership nor should it be subject to timber harvesting or used for mass recreation, both of which would destroy it.

Senator BIBLE. That is a splendid statement, Mrs. Dexter. I want to compliment you on it.

I call it particularly to the attention of Mr. Hartzog. I think, in an area such as this, you are confronted with a problem of the pressures of recreationists and the desire of the conservations for conservation so it poses a problem. You are not going to have millions of visitors into an area that you are trying to ecologically preserve. There is just no way you can do it, and we constantly have that problem and I think you commented on it very well.

I want Mr. Hartzog to take a particular look at Mrs. Dexter's proposal here because it seems to me it makes a lot of commonsense.

You are not going to have everything out of this, you just think you are going to have a great big cash register item and then lock it up partly for ecological purposes, conservation and recreation just do not go hand in hand.

I like the realism in this last statement.

(Mrs. Dexter's complete statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF ANELLA DEXTER, TEXAS CONSERVATION COUNCIL,
HOUSTON, TEX.

I am Anella Dexter of Houston, Texas. I represent the Texas Conservation Council, a state-wide organization dedicated to the protection of natural areas, the establishment and wise use of recreation areas, and the preservation of native wildlife. Mr. Dexter and I have a personal interest in the Big Thicket because we have been photographing and studying plant life there as a hobby

ever since we came to Houston nearly 20 years ago. About 10 years ago we became especially interested in the fungi and we are convinced this is one of the finest areas in the country for studying them.

When people talk about "preserving" the Big Thicket, they often talk as though preservation and mass recreation were synonymous. Perhaps we should begin this report by saying that we recognize the tremendous need for outdoor recreation and the outstanding potential for recreation in the forests of East Texas but our primary reason for wanting a national park in the Big Thicket is preservation of the unique character of this fabulous area. Scientists and conservationists have hoped to preserve some of the Thicket for many years but this is the first time there is a hope that action will take the place of wishful thinking. Meanwhile agriculture has pressed in on all sides, lumbering has altered almost all of it, highways and oil pipelines have criss-crossed it, more and more people have moved into it and the developers have sub-divided large parts of it. Time is running out for the Big Thicket. There must be immediate action if any of the few remaining natural areas are to be preserved for posterity.

The Big Thicket is Worth Preserving as an important part of the pattern of primitive America. We use the term "Big Thicket" to mean not just the traditional Big Thicket in the Pine Island Bayou Area but the larger, ecological area between the Sabine and the San Jacinto Rivers and roughly from Federal Highway 190 on the north to the coastal prairie on the south. This area is biologically unique as a result of a combination of sandy, well-aerated soils and moisture retaining clays, a warm climate, and abundant rainfall plus topography that consist of upland areas, undrained depressions, and many spring-fed streams, rivers, and bayous. Each area has its own eco-system. Although there no doubt were some yaupon thickets and areas where the shrubs and vines were so thick as to be almost impenetrable, the name "Big Thicket" was probably a misnomer for most of the area. Stately stands of loblolly pine and hardwoods once formed a canopy that provided shade too dense for a thick understory but the vegetation became more dense and tangled as the big trees were removed and sunlight became available.

There are many species of flowering plants, ferns, mosses, lichens, and fungi in the Big Thicket. In fact it has a much wider variety of plant communities than any other alluvial plain along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. It has plant life that is common in such distant areas as the Appalachian Mountains, the Okefenokee Swamp, and the Mexican state of Vera Cruz. These plants from far off places have often undergone species changes that are of considerable interest to botanists. The wetlands communities are fascinating but the forest products industries are ditching and draining the wet-lands, which is causing the carnivorous plants, the orchids, the ferns, and the mosses that are so characteristic of these areas to disappear.

Bird life is abundant. There have been several sightings of the ivory bill woodpecker, once thought to be extinct, both on the Neches and along Pine Island Bayou. The bear and the cougar have probably disappeared but raccoons, bobcats, and possums as well as countless reptiles and amphibians still make it their home. For them preservation of habitat offers the only hope for survival. For us it is a last chance to maintain a tremendously important out-door laboratory.

We Like the General Plan for Preservation shown on the map released by the study team of the National Park Service in October of 1968, (Map attached.) There are no longer any really large natural areas suitable for preservation, so the study team has wisely chosen to preserve a series of smaller virgin or near virgin areas. They selected nine such areas and designated them as "Pearls" but their Preliminary Report of 1967 did not supply the string for their "String-of-Pearls" concept. The newer plan proposes an Environmental Conservation Area that will include all of Hardin County and adjacent parts of Jasper, Polk, Tyler, and Liberty Counties. Within this Environmental Area the preservation of natural beauty will be the major consideration. The roads and waterways will be protected by scenic easements and will serve as connecting links between the nine natural areas. Some of the streams are excellent for canoeing and hiking trails along the streams will lead from one designated unit to another.

The nine units selected for preservation of their scientific value are excellent. They include a Profile Unit along Big Sandy and Menard Creeks and Pine Island Bayou, a Palmetto Unit on Pine Island Bayou, a Loblolly Pine Unit, a savannah, an acid bog unit, a beech-magnolia unit and three bottom-land units on the Neches. These add up to approximately 35,000 acres and encompass some of the

best ecologically important areas. Perhaps another beech-magnolia unit should be selected because the one listed was cut after the preliminary survey was completed. There is no provision for preserving a pitcher plant bog and we feel that one should be included.

We believe that some additions are needed. We would like to add protection for the entire flood plain of the Neches below Dam B, both because the ivory bill woodpecker requires large stand of hardwoods for survival and because this is an especially fine area for observing plant and animal life.

We would also like to add a wildlife refuge of approximately 40,000 acres in the Saratoga, Kountze, Sour Lake triangle bounded by Highways 326, 105, and 770. This is in the heart of the traditional "Tight-eye Thicket." It is essentially a flat area with grey clay and sand that remains wet enough for the palmetto-cypress-tupelo association. There are bay galls with sweet bay, large mayhaw patches and vines of every description to tie the trees and shrubs together. There are yaupon thickets and on the "islands" that rise above the flats there are some huge chinquapins. This is an excellent area for protecting and preserving the typical wildlife of the area and also for providing a source of game for the leased and public hunting areas around it. We would like to see it managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

These additions bring the total acreage to somewhat near 100,000 acres. We feel they are definitely needed if we are to have a park of national stature in the Big Thicket.

No Timber Cutting, Grazing, or Oil Operations should be permitted in the specimen units. Selective cutting under strict supervision would not be inconsistent in the Wildlife Refuge. Growth is rapid in the Big Thicket and the forests have recovered rather well from the indiscriminate cuttings of the 1880's and the 1930's but cottonwood and pine plantations are a threat to the integrity of the Big Thicket. We would like to see the stream corridors protected according to the concepts established for scenic rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the easements along the highways maintained under federal or state highway regulations.

Recreational Development in the specimen units should be limited to walking trails and these should be kept narrow so as not to break the forest canopy or endanger the scientific and educational values these areas are intended to protect. Since mass recreation and preservation simply are not compatible, we believe there should be no developed camp grounds or large recreational areas within the Environmental Conservation Area. There are a number of reservoir lakes outside this area—Sam Rayburn, Dam B, Toledo Bend, and Lake Livingston—that provide excellent opportunities for camping and water-oriented recreation. These can be more fully developed. There also are some fine camping areas in the National Forests. We have suggested to the State Parks and Wildlife Department that the Gravel Pit Lakes near Romayer would be excellent for a state park. They lie between Houston and the Big Thicket and would serve to take some of the pressure off the natural areas inside the Environmental Conservation Area. Hunting, fishing, hiking, and primitive camping should be permitted in the scenic corridors along the streams and small picnic units should be established along the roads. Driving for pleasure has been voted the most popular of all outdoor recreational pursuits and wide scenic easements and opportunities to picnic along the way will make driving in this area a delightful experience.

History and Legend are an Important Part of the Big Thicket story. Perhaps local governments or the state can preserve the Bragg Hotel in what was once a thriving sawmill town but is now almost a ghost town, and some of the early homes with their mud daub chimneys. We would like to see Ghost Road north of Saratoga protected by a scenic easement both because this 8-mile stretch of country road is so closely connected with Big Thicket lore and because of its beauty and botanical interest.

The Economy of the Big Thicket will benefit from the establishment of a national park. East Texas has always been a depressed area because it has depended on a single industry and this has kept wages down. Tourism is already improving the situation and the prestige of a national park will add impetus to the trend. Economic studies made at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Grand Teton National Park, and in other areas have shown that the tourist industry caused big increases in the values of real and personal property, sales and use taxes, bank deposits, etc. A "Study of the Economic Growth in Upper Michigan"

showed that tourism was more profitable than mining, manufacturing, or agriculture.

We do not believe that the proposed 100,000-acre national park will seriously harm the timber industry. Preserving easements along the roads will mean some loss in production but the proposed environmental corridors along the streams are not particularly good for lumbering and some of the units would have to be drained to be harvested.

To Summarize—The primary purpose for establishing a national park in the Big Thicket is preservation of an outstanding ecological area. Such a scientifically important area should not be "locked up" as it is under private ownership nor should it be subject to timber harvesting or used for mass recreation, both of which would destroy it.

Senator BIBLE. The next witness is Mr. Herman Brown, manager, Angelina County Chamber of Commerce, Lufkin, Tex.

Mr. Brown.

STATEMENT OF HERMAN BROWN, MANAGER, ANGELINA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MR. BROWN. Senator Yarborough, Senator Bible, members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity of being allowed to present testimony here.

I am Herman Brown, as said, manager of the Angelina County Chamber of Commerce, and had not my forestry chairman been detained in his own business in another State for a full week, he would have been making this statement, Mr. George Gribber.

On November 13, 1968, we endorsed the proposal that a Big Thicket National Monument be established. We have endorsed the concept of creating such a monument by the acquisition of 35,500 acres for this purpose. We feel it is important to preserve unique specimen contained in the Big Thicket area.

We do not believe that such a monument will require 100,000 or more acres of land. We believe the desired preservation may be accomplished in the "String of Pearls" concept. And, Senator, after listening to some of the witnesses here today, I might be willing to believe that all of this 35,000 acres might be in one spot if the experts in the ecology could agree on that spot.

We also point out that adjacent to the Big Thicket is a 4,000 acre Indian reservation which is being further developed.

There are 658,106 acres of national forest lands in east Texas embodied in four national forests. We maintain that these forests offer opportunity to be increasingly developed to the satisfaction of those who may desire to see the forest land in an untouched and beautiful state.

In fact, the presently owned Government forests are already being developed along some of these lines.

For example, there are strips along the highways which are managed and preserved in the natural and esthetic state. The tourist—along these areas—does not see an area cluttered up with a variety of signs and other things, but rather views the beauty of the land and the forest.

These are known as travel influence zones. The same is true of areas in our national forests where the forests are traversed by the rivers and streams—water influence zones have been created, developed, and

kept from erosion, purely for the enjoyment of the boater as he travels the river, the lakes, and the streams.

We definitely do not feel that it is necessary to acquire 100,000 acres or more of forest lands utilized for a multiple of purposes and "build a fence around it," so to speak, in order to serve people who may go in and view the unique displays and conditions.

Our contention is that further development of certain acres for recreation within our presently Government-owned national forests by setting aside additional sections nearby which could be kept untouched for those who desire to view.

Here again may I say we realize the educational and research values and spiritual values of people in this but we are again contending this is not in the interest of the mass of people which seems to be some of the misconceptions.

We believe the National Park Service plan, as submitted in 1967, is a wise one, a plan calling for 35,500 acres and the only plan which has been offered which is in full detail.

Every day we receive letters from far and wide asking for information about our national forests and the recreation to be afforded therein. Some of these inquiries want to camp out; a majority of the inquiries reflect the desire for some sort of the more modern facility. A large host of people, of course, at the present time, are bringing their accommodations with them in the form of campers, self-contained trailers, and the like. More and more families are vacationing as a unit. We receive hundreds of this type of inquiry each year.

Although we are not in the immediate area of the Big Thicket, more to the northern part, it is a fact that during the past 6 months we have received less than half a dozen inquiries about the Big Thicket.

Our most recent inquiry about the Big Thicket was made by a Texas citizen residing between Dallas and Tyler, in essence said: "Will you provide us with some information about the Big Thicket? We have some friends from out-of-state and we want to drive them through the forest area."

We provide a letter reply about every Big Thicket inquiry. Now I ask you, will it require 100,000 acres of land for these people, in particular, to see a primitive forest and a unique forest specimen? We do not think that such a large segment of land will be required; and, we most certainly do not feel that it will be to the best interests of our east Texas section of the country for this to be done.

The economy of east Texas, to a great degree, is based on forest lands and the products thereof.

East Texas is a growing area. In order to grow, more land development for housing, schools, commerce, plants, highways, roads, and businesses will be required.

Inevitably, some of this land will have to come from present owners of forest lands. We say, therefore, that we should require them to "give up" only the necessary number of acres to accomplish the purposes of the proposed Big Thicket Monument, and which we are pretty much agreed on as to what we need it for.

Most people want to go "where the action is." Take our area lakes, for example, Sam Rayburn Reservoir, Toledo Bend, and Town Bluff. Millions of people are coming to these lakes annually. We might well

be planning for the additional use of some of our presently owned, nearby national forest lands to accommodate this mass of people.

But we must provide for a new generation. I do not think that we should be as the man who gave his son 25 cents not to eat supper and who then charged his son 25 cents to eat breakfast. We cannot have the cake of a single-purpose use of our forest lands and, at the same time, provide the necessities of life, the housing, the schools, the taxes, if you will, for our governments, or by taking from those who create employment, jobs, educational opportunities, or the culture of the good life.

Gentlemen, we do not think that adopting S. 4 is the proper way to solve this problem. We do believe that the passage of H.R. 14391, will gain the objective. We endorse the smaller concept for the Big Thicket National Monument.

We respectfully request your consideration of our position in the matter.

Senator BIBLE. We very much appreciate your position here, Mr. Brown.

Senator YARBOROUGH. May I make a comment?

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Dexter's very fine statement, she condensed it, omitted some sentences and paragraphs along the way, but there are two sentences she omitted that I would like to read:

She omitted in the interest of time, page 6:

"The economy of the Big Thicket will benefit from the establishment of a national park. East Texas has always been a depressed area because it has depended on a single industry and this has kept the wages down."

That is Mrs. Dexter's statement.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, of course it will be incorporated in full in the record.

Our next witness is Mrs. Geraldine Watson of Silsbee, Tex.

Mrs. Watson.

STATEMENT OF GERALDINE WATSON, SILSBEE, TEX.

Mrs. WATSON. Mr. Chairman—

Senator BIBLE. We are very happy to have you here, Mrs. Watson. I am told by the distinguished Senator from Texas that you are among the greatest living authorities on the Big Thicket, so I am happy to meet you.

Mrs. WATSON. I don't know about that.

I submitted a written statement, but I have since been asked to comment on something else, to give a geomorphological definition of the Big Thicket. That is a description which is scientifically defensible.

This has not been done during this—

Senator BIBLE. Very glad to allow you 10 minutes for that. Women say they want equal opportunity.

Mrs. WATSON. Why don't I just leave my notes with you?

Senator BIBLE. You have 10 minutes. I want to hear you.

Mrs. WATSON. Well, I am scheduled to show you some of the Big Thicket. I would rather spend the time showing it to you rather than talking about it.

Senator BIBLE. I would think I would rather enjoy that myself. You can highlight the full statement, but I am going to give you 10 minutes. We are working along pretty well.

Mrs. WATSON. All right, I will read it very quickly with your permission.

The Big Thicket has two explanations as to size and boundaries. The traditional, or legendary, which lies roughly in the Pine Island Bayou watershed, and the ecological Big Thicket, which covers around 3½ million acres and is divided into upper and lower thicket. This is further divided into seven different ecosystems or plant communities which Peggy named a while ago and which I won't go into the detail she said I would go into.

The upper thicket is Pliocene and is predominantly a beech-magnolia-loblolly climax forest community with, of course, oaks, maples, and others.

The lower is Pleistocene, is around a hundred feet lower than the upper and is predominantly streambottom hardwood forest with beech-magnolia-loblolly coming down the streams and intervals between bottomlands are pine savannahs.

On the line dividing the upper from the lower, where the elevation drops, strata of moisture-bearing sands come to the surface, producing sphagnum bogs where orchids, ferns, and carnivorous plants thrive.

The Miocene geologic area on the northern boundary sinks southward to form a basin which holds 20,000-30,000 feet of porous, moisture-retaining sands, clays, and gravels. This underground water, the many streams, an average rainfall around 60 feet, and warm gulf climate accounts for the lush junglelike growth of the Big Thicket. Its location, geographical location, as a biological crossroads of the four climate zones gives it its unique variety of plant communities.

The lifeblood of the Thicket is its water and any plan to preserve any part of it, which does not include protection of these waterways is little more than a farce. It will not preserve any of these systems.

You have heard experts testify which assures you of that. So I want to strongly urge that the environmental corridor plan, that is the plan which connects the units by the environmental corridors along the streams, be put into effect immediately.

Now I have spent my life in this area and I have been close to the lumber industry and I guess nobody other than Lance Rozier observed it as closely as I have, how this area is being destroyed. Not lumbering by itself, and I want to stop right here and commend Temple Industry and Kirby Lumber Co. for their past practices of selective harvesting. The most beautiful woods in east Texas have belonged to Kirby and to Temple. But this is not the practice any more, the thing which is destroying the Big Thicket is the forest products industry's plans to convert their holdings in this part of the State in southeast Texas to pine plantations at the rate of 35,000 acres a year, and I have had it on the authority of wildlife biologists that these pine plantations are biological deserts. They are controlled by herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, and all that sort of thing and the squirrels he was talking about I would like to know where they nest.

I would like so much to comment on a lot of remarks which they made—

Senator BIBLE. Well—

Mrs. WATSON (continuing). But I will not take the time.

Senator BIBLE. The record is going to be kept open and you are 9 minutes along.

Mrs. WATSON. I know.

Senator BIBLE. We will put your whole statement in the record and we will allow you 2 weeks to make any comment that you want on anything that you want to say and this goes for any of the other witnesses.

(The complete statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF GERALDINE WATSON, SILSSEE, TEXAS

I am Geraldine Watson. I spent my life in this area—am a naturalist and for five years wrote a newspaper column called *The Big Thicket—Past, Present and Future*. I have submitted a written statement and planned to make no oral remarks, but have been requested to give a geomorphological definition of the Big Thicket.

The lifeblood of the Thicket is its water and any plan to preserve any part of it must include protection for its waterways, or it will just be a farce. I strongly urge that the Environmental Corridor plan, which connects the proposed units by the major streams, be put into effect immediately.

So that you can understand what I say, let me give you some definitions: a Climax Forest is one where the species of plants best suited to the soil and moisture conditions of a certain area dominate the other species and reach maturity. A plant community is comprised of a number of plants which are dependent in various ways on one another. Many plants cannot survive or multiply if taken from their community. These plant communities are called ecosystems.

The Big Thicket has been so altered, most of its forests are a conglomeration of many forest types, but at least seven distinct ecosystems are still identifiable: Beech-Magnolia-Loblolly Pine, Upland Pine Savannah, Wetland Pine Savannah, Streambottom Hardwood, Palmetto-Cypress-Tupelo, Arid-Sandyland Community and Acidbog-Baygall.

The Big Thicket has two explanations as to size and boundaries. The traditional, or legendary, which lies roughly in the Pine Island Bayou watershed, and the ecological Big Thicket, which covers around 3½ million acres and is divided into Upper and Lower thicket. The Upper, is Pliocene and is predominantly a Beech-Magnolia-Loblolly climax forest community with, of course, oaks, maples and others.

The Lower is Pleistocene, is around a hundred feet lower than the Upper and is predominantly Streambottom Hardwood Forest with Beech-Magnolia-Loblolly coming down the streams and intervals between bottomlands are Pine Savannahs.

On the line dividing the Upper from the Lower, where the elevation drops, strata of moisture-bearing sands come to the surface, producing sphagnum bogs where orchids, ferns and carnivorous plants thrive.

The Miocene geologic area on the northern boundary sinks southward to form a basin which holds 20 to 30 thousand feet of porous, moisture-retaining sands, clays and gravels. This underground water, the many streams, an average rainfall around 60' and warm Gulf climate accounts for the lush, jungle-like growth of the Big Thicket. Its location as a biological crossroads of the four climate zones gives it its unique variety of plant communities.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I think Mrs. Watson inferentially referred to a kind of rival plan of some authority being formed to build a dam on Village Creek down here and they are going to bulldoze this out and just wreck that whole area. I assume that is what you were referring to, Mrs. Watson.

Mrs. WATSON. I beg your pardon?

Senator YARBOROUGH. This plan to build a dam on Village Creek, this other authority that is being formed to bulldoze out,

Mrs. WATSON. No, sir; I had no reference to that.

Senator YARBOROUGH. You haven't heard of that?

Mrs. WATSON. Yes, I have heard of it, and I heartily oppose it, but I made no reference to it in my speech.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I inferred that is what you were referring to when you said if you do not preserve these waterways the rest of it is useless.

Mrs. WATSON. Thank you for making that point. It is true.

Senator BIBLE. Whosever point it was, it has been made.

Our next witness is John R. McCarty, chairman, Texas Tourist Development Board of the Texas Tourist Development Agency, Dallas, Tex.

STATEMENT OF JOHN R. McCARTY, CHAIRMAN, TEXAS TOURIST DEVELOPMENT BOARD, TEXAS TOURIST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, DALLAS, TEX.

Mr. McCARTY. Senator Bible and Senator Yarborough, I regret I have no snakes, birds, or rabbits to pull out of my hat. I do want you to note, Senator Bible, that I have a new blue tie that I wore to complement your beautiful new blue shirt.

Senator BIBLE. Good, thank you.

Mr. McCARTY. I suppose with all that has been said here today my main purpose would be to indicate what Texas, the State of Texas, is doing to promote tourism and how a Big Thicket National Park could enhance this program.

In some 5-year period since the State first began officially advertising and promoting its tourist facilities, it has had a 58-percent increase in the number of tourists, a 130-percent increase in their total spending.

Last year we had 22,300,000 out-of-State tourists, who spent \$1,500 million in the State. This brought in \$141 million directly in State taxes, and represented \$118 return for each dollar spent or I might say invested in tourist advertising.

Among the things that we found in launching this program and doing market research was that the best way to attract tourists was with scenic beauty. This, by far, is the most popular attraction. So you can readily see why we, as the agency responsible for tourism, would certainly want such a park as the Big Thicket. In fact, we have already featured in our advertising the east Texas forests and the fresh lakes here, and the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation, and the tourist visitation in this area is good, in fact, in the national forests the first 4 months of this year it is up 10 percent.

So, to quickly summarize, it is our strong feeling that the Big Thicket Park would complement other national areas in the State such as Guadalupe and Big Bend Parks, the Fort Davis Historic Site, San Jose National Mission Monument, and the Padre Island Seashore which Senator Yarborough has done such a magnificent job in helping to obtain for the State.

With Big Thicket National Park our out-of-State visitors and Texans themselves could visit mountains, forests, and seashore, all of which would be nationally designated.

Thank you.

(The prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF JOHN R. McCARTY, CHAIRMAN, TEXAS TOURIST DEVELOPMENT BOARD, TEXAS TOURIST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, DALLAS, TEXAS

1. The Texas tourist industry has grown substantially since the state officially began to chip away at the firmly-held public concept that there was little here but cowboys, cattle, and cactus—just one vast desert wasteland.

(a) To 22.3 million visitors in 1969, an increase of 58 percent since 1964 when TTDA's program was launched.

(b) To \$1.6 billion in visitor spending in 1969, up 130 percent since 1964 (the five-year increase, incidentally, is 124 percent greater than the five-year visitor spending pattern, 1959-1964, before TTDA came into existence).

(c) Included in last year's spending was an estimated \$141 million in direct state taxes paid by visitors, a measurable return of \$118 for every dollar invested in travel development by the state in FY 1969.

2. Growth of Texas tourism has been effected largely by TTDA's promotional emphasis on the scenic beauty and diversity of the state. This has been our approach since basic research tells us that the vacationer is seeking scenic beauty more than any other quality when he vacations.

(a) The forests of East Texas have had a significant part in our national advertising/promotion from the outset since they speak so graphically of a land that is far more than desert.

(b) Our promotion has also emphasized the abundant fresh water lakes of Texas, second only to Alaska's in square miles, in our efforts to chip away at the desert image.

(c) It has included too emphasis on the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation, a prime visitor attraction.

3. All of these aspects (forests, water, Indians) are found in East Texas. Hence, the region has benefited handily from TTDA's promotion.

4. Attendance figures for the first four months of 1970 indicate that visitation to the four national forests in Texas is 195,938—10 per cent greater than the same period last year.

(a) Interest in the Texas Forest Trail, one of 10 in the Trails series, is growing through publicity and word-of-mouth comment by those who have traveled it. It, of course, winds through Southeast Texas and in the Big Thicket area.

5. All of this means that visitors are already coming to the forested areas of East Texas in large numbers. And they will, increasingly, if an attraction the calibre of a national park is created in the Thicket.

6. From the economic standpoint this will mean increased spending in the area, increased local and states taxes paid by visitors, increased jobs created. All factors of importance to an area rich in natural and scenic beauty but relatively poor economically. The State of Texas is, therefore, anxious to see the Big Thicket National Park come into existence.

7. But this is far more than an economic consideration. For national park status would preserve one of the nation's rarest ecological/biological regions, reason enough for its preservation.

(a) its proximity to the great Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth metro areas would be highly beneficial to residents too, affording them an opportunity to visit such a carefully preserved island where they could find escape from the hubbub of city life in commune with nature.

8. Existence of a Big Thicket National Park would complement the other nationally-designated and operated areas in Texas: Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks, Padre Island National Seashore, Fort Davis National Historic Site, and San Jose Mission National Monument.

(a) It would mean that the visitor to Texas, and the Texan himself, could visit forests, mountains, or seashore, all national facilities, within the same state. Result would be dramatic portrayal of our grand sweep of country and attractions.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mr. McCarty. That is a very fine statement.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, may I make an observation? Mr. McCarty, from your experience in working on tourism, haven't

you found that establishing a national park attracts a great many people to the area? It often happens that people from Texas come by my office in Washington and say, "I am on the way to Maine," and I say, "What for?" "To see the Acadia National Park."

I have had people tell me, "I take my family each summer to see one or two of the national parks. We plan to visit all of the national parks in America." You know as chairman of this tourist development board how they spend 2 or 3 weeks visiting national parks in other areas, and I assume that is what you are referring to here. They are reluctant to go to an area which has only one national park. We often ourselves have been able to find they want to visit two or three in one trip.

Mr. McCARTY. This is quite correct.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Haven't you found that?

Mr. McCARTY. Of course, when we get Guadelupe developed, we will have one on each side of the State.

Senator YARBOROUGH. I want to say that several years ago a television station in Shreveport made a 30-minute documentary, colored TV film on this area of Texas. This was because the Shreveport people knew that if people were aware of this great place to visit Texas, many of them would come from the Midwest here and that they would pass through Shreveport, and their community would benefit from this tourism, thus, if we establish a Big Thicket National Park in southeast Texas it would also benefit our neighboring States.

Senator BIBLE. Your point is very valid.

Mr. McCARTY. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Dr. William Graber, Beaumont, Tex.

Is Dr. Graber here? If not, his statement will be incorporated in full in the record.

I am next going to hear Dr. Merrifield, Chairman of the Department of Forest Science, Texas A. & M. University, College Station, Tex.

VOICE. Dr. Merrifield asked me to express his apologies and his regrets that because of some prior arrangements which he could not change he had to leave at 2:15 and his statement will have to be filed for the record.

Senator BIBLE. His statement will be incorporated in full in the record.

(The statements of Dr. Graber and Dr. Merrifield were not supplied in time to be included in the record.)

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Mrs. Ethel Osbourne Hill of Beaumont. Is she here? Do I understand your nickname is "Ma Thicket"? Is that what they call you?

Mrs. HILL. Yes, sir.

Senator BIBLE. God love you, and I am glad to see you here. We will give her a hand. [Applause.]

Senator YARBOROUGH. She is one lady who would not be embarrassed if you asked her age.

Senator BIBLE. I am not going to do it. [Laughter.]

No; I learned that with my wife a long time ago and my wife is a lot younger than I am.

STATEMENT OF MRS. ETHEL OSBOURNE HILL, BEAUMONT, TEX.

Mrs. HILL. Senator, someone asked me not long ago, "Do you mind if I tell your age?" I said, "I go around bragging about it every day, I am almost 92."

Senator BIBLE. By gosh, you act like 29. Very good.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, her columns are published in the newspapers now.

Senator BIBLE. They had better be.

Mrs. HILL. I worked for something like 50 years for the Big Thicket. Really, I did not know I was going to be called on today and I am not a speaker, I am just a talker.

I would just say for all this time I have spoken to different age groups in different sizes always on the Big Thicket, and I teach 200 children every summer at the church camps and I stress conservation of our beautiful natural gifts and especially our Big Thicket. And I think the need for it cannot be overestimated.

I am one of the founders of the original Big Thicket Organization, which died off because everybody died with me, I think that was—

Senator BIBLE. You are holding out pretty well. [Laughter.]

Mrs. HILL. I do appreciate the honor, Senator Yarborough, I will always remember what he has done, and Senator Bible.

Senator BIBLE. He has been a great enthusiast.

Mrs. HILL. Wonderful, and I think he deserves it.

Senator BIBLE. Ma Thicket, I am happy to meet you. When you come to Washington, come in to visit me and we will have some bean soup.

Mrs. HILL. I have always wanted to go to Washington and three times I almost did.

Senator BIBLE. Let's give her a hand, Mrs. Hill. [Applause.]

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, Dempsie Henley, the author of "The Big Thicket," has presented a copy of this book, and wants it filed with the committee, incorporated by reference. He would like it to be filed with the record for reference.

Senator BIBLE. Yes, indeed, and I have this book at my home in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity of reading this or Justice Douglas' book, what does he call it, "Farewell to Texas."

I don't know anybody who said "Farewell to Texas," but I am looking forward to reading these books. He gave me a third one, "The Big Thicket Story," so I have my reading material cut out for me.

I am next going to hear from Robert L. Armstrong, Democratic nominee for land commissioner, Austin, Tex.

Mr. Armstrong.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT L. ARMSTRONG, DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR LAND COMMISSIONER, AUSTIN, TEX.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Very happy to see you.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator Yarborough.

Let me talk to you for a brief moment, if I may, first of all in perhaps an unusual or from an unusual stance but as a lifelong user of the national park, the national wilderness area system. I have spent a honeymoon which, fortunately, was my only one at this point in my life, in Yellowstone, and I think part of it has to do with the fact that we were starting in the mountains and we had some hills to climb and everything has worked out pretty well as a result of that honeymoon.

I would say we spent most of our time in the wilderness in the Wind River Range in Wyoming. We spent a lot of time in the Pecos Wilderness Area in New Mexico, but the point I make is as a user in that sense, I look with envy at Wyoming, I look with envy at New Mexico. I am thankful we do have Big Bend.

Senator BIBLE. I am happy to meet you here at lunch and you come into Nevada and look at things in Nevada. We will move that way, but we should not move that far.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. This is the point I am trying to make.

Senator BIBLE. You can have your works and let us have a few, too. All right, go ahead.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I want to avoid the temptation of Las Vegas. I would like to be able to seriously have more access to this kind of recreational facility, and the ecological and environmental consequences of this kind of area, I think, are always worth considering. I think Mrs. Dexter is right so far as size is concerned.

Let me say I think that it is not in the best interest of trying to resolve the kind of problem that Mrs. Dexter points out to limit the size. I think the larger size is the only way you are going to resolve the differences as far as recreational and ecological uses are concerned because this to me seems to make good sense. For that reason I would think the hundred thousand acres would be the figure you would want to use.

Second, let me speak from the point of view of a person who has campaigned this State on a conservation theme. Everywhere I went we talked about this, and I would say that the people of Texas are waiting for this kind of park system.

I would hope that we could do it as a State, and I think, at some point in the future, we are going to be able to do more with our State resources, but we need the help of the Federal Government, as Governor Daniel pointed out.

I think it is time for you to move in this area.

I would urge you to do two things: One, to do it now; two, do it right. I feel a great debt to the people who have made it possible for me to use these parks that I have talked about. I would hope at some point in the future the two of you, coupled with the other people who are responsible for making this into a reality, might also receive a debt of gratitude and a feeling of indebtedness from our children in the future, and for this reason I urge upon you to take this action and hope that you will do so.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, a very fine statement.

This completes the list of the official witnesses that I have here. I had a number of late requests, and what I am going to do if there are people here who have not been heard, if they would like to come

forward and introduce themselves and their statement, we will be very happy to record it in the record, and the reporter will get the name and we will put the statement in the record.

STATEMENT OF MRS. GRADY STARNES, TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Mrs. STARNES. I am sorry I could not make my appearance known but I was not sure that I would be in town is the reason I was late.

Senator Bible and Senator Yarborough, and the people: The people here today have been treated to an abundance of eloquence and so I hope my statement will be noted for its brevity and its content.

Senator BIBLE. First state your name.

Mrs. STARNES. I am Mrs. Grady Starnes, representing the Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

I am a member of the Board of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., and as such, represent 27,000 members who firmly support preserving at least 100,000 acres in the Big Thicket for our national park.

We have been working on this project for nearly 10 years and we are very happy to be joined by any other group that cares to help us.

One point I wish to make that I do not believe has been set out to date, and when you project 37,000 acres you are actually talking about $6\frac{3}{10}$ miles square.

When you talk about 100,000 acres, you are only talking about $12\frac{6}{10}$ miles square.

Now is 12 miles square too much for a national park? I think not.

It is less than the land covered by the city of Beaumont, to get it in perspective, and we firmly support the 100,000-acre park. Thank you.

I have been listening all day. Just so you will be sure that Texas longhorns are No. 1, here is a souvenir pen for you.

Senator BIBLE. Well, fine, thank you. I am subject to bribery. [Laughter.]

The next witness—just final statements, please. Give me your name and who you represent.

STATEMENT OF EDNA JAGOE, PORT ARTHUR, TEX.

Mrs. JAGOE. I am Edna Jagoe of Port Arthur, Tex. I just want you to know that today you have heard Texas' new battle cry, "Save the Big Thicket," and I am speaking as a member of the board of directors of the Big Thicket, the only duly State-chartered nonprofit organization in the State whose sole purpose is preservation of this area.

I represent 1,500 women of the Magnolia District of Federated Women's Clubs living all within the Magnolia District. I represent myself, too, a retired public school teacher, and the many pupils I have taught conservation to for 34 years, and I speak for them, and for the children yet unborn. And as an individual and in the name of these organizations, Senator, in the last 9 months I have carried the cause of this Big Thicket to 25 prominent organizations, sponsored the writing of 2,000 pieces of correspondence, have shown films of the flowers, birds, and animals of the Thicket to many people, includ-

ing 450 colored children of the Wheatley Elementary School in Port Arthur.

I also wrote the resolution and promoted its adoption by Port Arthur's 450 Club Women that Senator Yarborough had put into the Congressional Record, and we appreciate that very much.

I have also been given prime time on radio and channel 4, KJAC-TV all in the interests of saving the Big Thicket.

Now, I could give my idea of what the Big Thicket is, I could also give other people's writings of what the Big Thicket is, but I have heard it all here today, but may I just close with this:

The Big Thicket is still thick, and its depths are still as mysterious and forbidding as they were when the first settler came to live on corn and sweet potatoes, bear meat, and venison. The little, black, angry bees still hive in the hollows, and the buck deer leave their big scrapes on the dim woods trails. Wild hogs that can rip a man from ankle to appetite still root for mast in the pin oak flats.

Senator BIBLE. I hope we do not run into any of those. [Laughter.]

Mrs. JAGOE. As I said in the beginning, sir, Texas' new cry is "Save the Big Thicket," and I hope you and your committee listen favorably to our cry today.

Thank you, sir.

(The prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF EDNA JAGOE, PORT ARTHUR, TEX.

Senator Bible and members of the committee, I am Mrs. Edna Jagoe of Port Arthur, Texas.

Texas has a new battle cry today, "Save the Big Thicket."

When I pronounce the new Texas cry, I speak as chairman of the Big Thicket project for some 1,500 members of The Texas Federation of Women's Clubs living in the Magnolia District which includes within its jurisdiction *all* of the 300,000 acres left of the original 3.2 million acres of the Big Thicket.

I am also speaking as a member of the Board of Directors of the Big Thicket Association—the only duly state chartered non-profit organization in the state whose sole purpose is conservation and preservation of the "biological and botanical crossroads of North America"—namely, the Big Thicket of Southeast Texas.

I also represent myself—a retired public school teacher—and the many pupils I've taught conservation to for thirty-four years, and I especially speak for the children, yet unborn.

As an individual and in the name of the organizations I've named, just in the last nine months I've carried the cause of the Big Thicket to twenty-five prominent organized groups—sponsored the writing of 2,000 pieces of correspondence—have shown films of the flowers, birds and animals of the Thicket to many people, including 450 colored students in the Wheatley Elementary School in Port Arthur.

I also wrote the resolution and promoted its adoption by Port Arthur's 450 Club Women that Senator Yarborough had put into the Congressional Record.

In order to cry "Save the Big Thicket" I've been given prime time on radio station KPAC in Port Arthur and on KJAC-TV (Channel 4)—all in the interest of saving the Big Thicket.

Many people have asked, "What is the Big Thicket?" In answering that question, I quote from the writings of Dr. Francis Abernathy, former English Professor of Lamar Tech College here in Beaumont—who knows the Big Thicket well.

I quote: "It is an area roped off from the general public by briars and ty-vines and by myrtle and yaupon thickets that you have to crawl through on your hands and knees. The Thicket is still thick. The pin oaks and water oaks and sweetgum trees grow tall and rank, straining to get up out of the underbrush and into the light and air above. Laurel bushes and yaupon bunch together in the forest's

middle world. The magnolia's dark green squats among its taller neighbors. A may-haw patch, two or three acres around, blooms dainty white in early March and drops its fruit in the water of the late April creek rises. Chinquapin trees so big you can't reach around them sit on hummocks that swell above the surrounding flats, and sweet bays spotted with their rich white blossoms stand hip-deep in a flooded baygall. Cypress trees edge the creek banks and poke their knees up through the old slough beds. Palmetto higher than your head rattles in the wind. And tying everything together are the vines: smilax, ty-vine, poison ivy, saw briars, muscadine and grape vines at every level."

The Big Thicket is still thick, and its depths are still as mysterious and forbidding as they were when the first settler came to live on corn and sweet potatoes, bear meat and venison. The little, black, angry bees still hive in the hollows, and the buck deer leave their big scrapes on the dim woods trails. Wild hogs that can rip a man from ankle to appetite still root for mast in the pin oak flats.

As I said in the beginning, Texas newest cry is "Save the Big Thicket!"

Gentlemen, I hope you listen favorably to that cry today—and save this unbelievable wilderness and the last refuge of Texas once bountiful wildlife.

Senator BIBLE. Now, will anybody else who wants to list their name and file their statement please come up? I don't want to make it a battle cry like this school teacher.

Mrs. JAGOE. I want you to know these young people who are here today at this hearing, it shows their interest, I appreciate it as a teacher and as a public and civic worker.

Senator BIBLE. So do I, and you probably taught them in school. [Applause.]

Senator BIBLE. Just give us your name and your statement.

We are not going to read the statements because we are going to be in a helicopter in 10 minutes. All I want you to do is give us your name and we will record your statement in full.

STATEMENT OF JOHN CALHOUN, SIERRA CLUB, EDITOR, URBAN DAILY NEWS; CHAIRMAN, LAND USE COMMITTEE, DALLAS CHAPTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION (ENACT)

Mr. CALHOUN. Fine, I am John Calhoun, I am a member of the Sierra Club, the environment editor for the Urban Daily News and chairman of the Land Use Committee for the Dallas chapter of environmental action.

Senator BIBLE. Very good, we will incorporate your statement in full and you will get a copy of what you said.

(The complete statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF JOHN CALHOUN, SIERRA CLUB, EDITOR, URBAN DAILY NEWS; CHAIRMAN, LAND USE COMMITTEE, DALLAS CHAPTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION (ENACT)

ENACT, which stands for Environmental Action, is a newly-formed organization in Dallas and nationwide established to promote among American citizens in general and youth in particular a better understanding of the earth's ecological balance and the dependence of all life—including man—upon that balance.

To this end, we are naturally allied with those 60-odd conservation organizations in the state who have been fighting to save Texas' vanishing wildernesses from the terrific onslaughts of industrial exploitation and urbanization.

The Big Thicket is a textbook case of this technological annihilation of our virgin lands. Once a sprawling ecological wonder of over 3 million acres encompassing a kaleidoscopic diversity of plant and animal life, the Thicket has been chopped and developed to the point that it is now approaching the state of being a patchwork of fragmented ecological islands interlaced with lumbermills, towns, roads, stripped-cut areas and industrial sites. Even the largest plan proposed

to save it represents a mere skeleton of what was once the total magnificence of Big Thicket.

Partly because of this and partly because Texas, early in its history, gave away or sold virtually all of its public land to private individuals or corporations, we are now going through the agonizing and expensive process of reclaiming from the jaws of technological ruination the few remaining natural wonders of the state. The spidery patchwork of the 100,000 acres proposed by Senator Yarborough's S-4 Bill is bitter testimony to the impossibility of reclaiming large, ecologically intact areas after they have been released to private exploitation. The even smaller and more fragmented areas generally favored by the forest industries is even greater testimony to the losses we stand to suffer if we continue to allow short-term financial gain to eclipse our sense of environmental responsibility.

The reasons for saving the Big Thicket from total degradation are compelling. First, in preventing its complete dislocation, we are taking a small but important step in the new direction of environmental awareness which ecologists tell us we must cultivate if we are to survive the twentieth century. We are saving that much more primitive land and life forms from extinction until we gain enough knowledge to use them in a non-destructive, self-renewing way. We must have these large unmolested areas to learn the secrets of ecology and use them to live in harmony and interdependence with our fellow creatures. Future man will either be *homo ecologicus* or *homo extinctus*.

Secondly, and of equal importance, is the esthetic factor. Our modern technological society has progressed to the point that one journalist termed it the "Plastic Life." Those of us who live in large cities—and that is the overwhelming preponderance of Americans—live in a world of plastic, glass and steel, constantly harassed by noise, congestion, traffic and pollution. We desperately need large primitive areas into which we can periodically retreat from the constant distractions of city life; places where we can again come into touch with the primeval roots of human existence; places where we can get close to the earth.

For those who have paddled a canoe down a quiet river and heard only the sounds of nature harmonizing with the lapping of the water on the side of the boat, no explanation is necessary. To those who have not, none is possible. Suffice it to say that the natural world exerts an unrelenting pull on every gene in every cell of our bodies and if we do not answer it occasionally, or cannot because of having no place to go, we suffer the neuroses for which our high-pressure society is famous.

Lastly, if we save the Big Thicket it may stand as a rallying point around which more concerned Americans can gather in the growing movement to pay back our overdrawn account in the bank of earth. In erecting a Big Thicket National Park, we are also erecting a national monument to environmental sanity.

The objections posed to the formation of the 100,000 acre park are at best tenuous. The economic gains cited by industry are always considered *in vacuo* as if no other effects except economic betterment resulted from increasing industrialization. The fact is that as the economic standard of living of a certain area goes up, the environmental standard of living plunges. This "Chamber of Commerce" attitude will have the same effects on the Big Thicket areas that it has had on our large cities.

Another objection is cost. It is recognized that the cost of acquiring the land called for in S-4 would exceed thirteen million dollars. In comparison with other national expenditures, including that on the ecological horror of the SST, this figure shrinks to insignificance. And it might be remarked that not even the gross national product can bring back the smallest species of insect from extinction. The cost of saving the Big Thicket is considerable; the cost of not saving it could be catastrophic.

In summary, then, we of ENACT, as agents for environmental responsibility, endorse the following:

(1) That a Big Thicket National Park or Forest be established in the area proposed by the preliminary report of the National Park study committee, and

(2) That this area be amended to include the environmental corridor concept as specified in S-4, totally some 100,000 acres.

This, we feel, is the minimum compatible with ecological continuity and we urgently request that the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee so act. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. We will now hear the next witness.

STATEMENT OF MRS. SID FARMER, JR., DISTRICT 4, COASTAL
PRAIRIE COUNCIL OF TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS

Mrs. FARMER. I am Mrs. Sid Farmer, Jr., I am representing District 4, Coastal Prairie Council of Texas Garden Clubs, 5,000 members.

You have my five typed statements. I want to just say two sentences. It is with humility that I follow all of these wonderful people who are so dedicated to our cause.

We support the—not the Pearl String concept, but the Big Thicket National Park as large as is possible to make.

All I am going to say, because so much has been said, and you have it filed already from me, is let's not just tell our grandchildren that is how the Big Thicket used to be, let's tell them that we helped to preserve it and protect it, the dogwood, the yellow jasmine, the wild azalea, and let's keep the Big Thicket wild like it was meant to be. And remember we can go out there and hear the sound of a simple violet growing in springtime, thank you.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have been a wonderful audience, it has been a pleasure for me to be here, and to preside over this hearing. I think it has been a full hearing. I think I understand this problem reasonably well, and I have laid down the ground rules which I will follow. I want to thank you for your courteous attention. You have been very orderly, very attentive in respecting the views of others and this is what makes America that great place it is today, and I am sure that we can work something out as we move along in the next several weeks.

I previously gave you my time schedule on how we will proceed.

Senator YARBOROUGH, it has been a great privilege for me to be here with you today as we now go out on a field inspection.

The next step in the chain, so that everybody is crystal clear, is that this record will be kept open for 2 weeks from today. We will ask the Park Service to make an evaluation, to make a statement to us within 30 days after that, and then it will be submitted for the action and the scrutiny of the subcommittee.

Senator YARBOROUGH.

Senator YARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, I am deeply grateful to you, Chairman Bible, for coming here and holding these hearings. We all know about the sudden interest in the environment of man in America, and the exploding interest in the ecology and the effort to preserve some of these areas. You have worked at it for 14 years, I believe, as Chairman, far longer than that, and you have worked and observed many of these areas before this great public interest grew.

Since this public interest has arisen, I know the demands on your time are almost unsolvable, you just have to go someplace and miss some places, we realize that. You cannot go to all these areas in 50 States that are begging you to come, and I think some in the territories, too, in Puerto Rico even, they have even got a park in the Virgin Islands now within the jurisdiction of your committee. We are very grateful, and I am glad that you saw a cross-section here of the vast number of people in Texas, and organizations not merely here, but all over the State and out on the plains, treeless plains where they do not have trees, I think the interest is more acute than where people get to see trees.

On behalf of the people of Texas, I express my gratitude that you saw fit to crowd this into your very busy schedule to come here and to evaluate this, park proposal, and to come here and see what it is like.

Senator BIBLE. I am delighted to be here and I am very happy seeing this great group of young people here. We hope it will give you a demonstration of what democracy is in working because you do not know an area until you go in and see it and get the feel of it and hear from your young people and your Ma Thickets and your middle-aged group and your experts, your scientists, those who have differing viewpoints, and so this what America is.

Thank you very much.

(Whereupon at 3 o'clock p.m., the subcommittee adjourned.)

APPENDIX

(Under authority previously granted, the following communications representative of the many letters received by the committee, were ordered printed in the hearing record.)

BIG THICKET OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT URGING PRESERVATION OF THE WILDERNESS AREA,
JANUARY 18, 1969

For 5 years now, we have worked to preserve hundreds of thousands of American acres for the benefit of the people—from the Redwoods of California to the shorelines of the East. But too many wild and splendid areas are still outside the people's reach.

The Big Thicket of Southeast Texas is such a place. This unique and beautiful woodland can be a source of enjoyment for generations yet to come. We should preserve as much of it as we can without delay. And as quickly as possible, we should add it to our great inventory of national parks and recreation areas.

I urge the people of Texas—and the people of the United States—to act now to save this great wilderness area. I hope we will not lose this chance to put this magnificent part of our heritage into the people's trust, for the enrichment of America forever. (Johnson, Lyndon B., Public Papers of the Presidents, Vol. 2, Item 702, p. 1366 (1968-69).)

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 20, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF TEXAS, ENDORSING
EFFORT TO CREATE BIG THICKET NATIONAL PARK (JANUARY 16, 1967)

Whereas, This body has come to know the many problems, frustrations and congestions engulfing our metropolitan areas, such as Harris County, and realize the importance and necessity of large green areas surrounding these heavily populated areas for recreation and outdoor enjoyment; and

Whereas, The members of this body appreciate and accept Senator Ralph Yarborough for his efforts and sacrifices in the behalf of our posterity, evidenced by the fact that he was instrumental in bringing about the establishment of Padre Island National Seashore and Guadalupe Mountains National Park; and

Whereas, The members of this body encourage Senator Yarborough in his effort to bring about a better life for all by the setting aside of these vast areas remaining of our rapidly diminishing enclaves of nature's unspoiled beauty, leaving them for the enjoyment of future generations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of the Texas House of Representatives go on record commending the senior Senator from Texas, Ralph Yarborough, for his introducing a bill in the Senate of the United States to bring about the creation of a national park to be named the Big Thicket National Park consisting of some 75,000 acres of land located in the southeast portion of this great state; and be it further

Resolved, That this Resolution be printed in the House Journal and that copies of this Resolution be sent to Senator Ralph Yarborough with our deep personal respect and admiration.

GLENN VICKERY, *State Representative.*

I hereby certify that H.S.R. No. 20 was adopted by the House on January 16, 1967.

DOROTHY HALLMAN,
Chief Clerk of the House.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C.

HON. RALPH W. YARBOROUGH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: We are pleased to inform you that the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, at its 59th Meeting held in Washington, D.C., on October 7-10, 1968, endorsed a proposal to establish a Big Thicket National Recreation Area in Texas. This proposed recreation area, comprising about 36,000 acres of land to be acquired in fee and 12,000 acres to be protected by scenic easements, would preserve representative samples of this unique ecological region and, at the same time, offer unusual opportunities for various types of outdoor recreation. The Advisory Board endorsed the establishment of a Big Thicket National Monument at its April 1967 meeting.

A copy of the Department's news release announcing the actions of the Advisory Board which relate to proposed additions to the National Park System and other proposals affecting existing areas of the Systems is enclosed.

We shall be glad to have representatives of the National Park Service meet with you at your convenience, if you so desire, to discuss this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior.

Enclosure.

NATIONAL PARKS ADVISORY BOARD ENDORSES TWO NATIONAL SEASHORES AND A RECREATION AREA

Proposals for two new national seashores and a new national recreation area were included in the five recommendations made by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments to Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. The Board met in Washington Oct. 7-10.

The five recommendations were:

* * * * *

To establish a Big Thicket National Recreation Area in Texas. Although the Board had previously endorsed the establishment of a Big Thicket National Monument, it felt that, based on a review of later studies by the National Park Service, this area could be protected and interpreted more effectively by establishing a national recreation area surrounded by an "environmental conservation zone."

* * * * *

Created by the Historic Sites Act of 1935, the 11-member non-salaried Advisory Board is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to advise him on matters relating to the natural, historical and recreational areas comprising the National Park System.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY,
AUDUBON HOUSE,
New York, N.Y., February 16, 1967.

HON. RALPH W. YARBOROUGH,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: We were pleased and honored to see that you read into the Congressional Record of February 6 a resolution by a branch of our organization, the Travis Audubon Society of Austin, Texas, endorsing your bill to establish a Big Thicket National Park.

This letter is to add the endorsement of the National Audubon Society, with more than 50,000 members and some 225 affiliated clubs throughout the country. Preserving this Texas area of dense vegetation, with its rich resources of plant and animal life, is the sort of project the National Audubon Society has been supporting for the more than 60 years of its existence.

One matter of interest in Big Thicket is the ivory-billed woodpecker, now close to extinction. You may have seen the reports that indicate a few of these

large birds, with dramatic black, white and red markings, may still be alive there. If so, the proposed park may offer their only hope for survival.

Yours truly,

CHARLES H. CALLISON,
Executive Vice President,

RESOLUTION—TEXAS TOURIST COUNCIL, AUSTIN, TEX.

Whereas, the Texas Tourist Council is a private enterprise association interested in the many scenic beauties and variety offered visitors in Texas—The Land of Contrast; and

Whereas, Out-of-state visitors to Texas have doubled in the past six years and with the decreasing length of the work week and with higher disposable incomes, more time is being used for recreational activity and travel; and

Whereas, The Council is cognizant of the need to preserve our rapidly diminishing enclaves of nature's unspoiled beauty and leave them for the enjoyment of future generations; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Texas Tourist Council send to all Congressional Representatives from Texas this Resolution to express our keen interest in the creation of Big Thicket National Park and encourage them to pursue the establishment of this national recreational area for the use of all citizens of the world.

ROBERT W. KNEEBONE,
President.

Dated this 31st day of May 1967, Austin, Texas.

RESOLUTION—THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

BIG THICKET NATIONAL PRESERVE

Whereas the Big Thicket region of southeast Texas contains a number of outstanding natural areas of great scientific value, including rare and endangered species such as the ivory-billed woodpecker, and great recreational potential, if established in a comprehensive and contiguous environmental system; and

Whereas separate tracts and interconnecting land and water systems are now proposed as a national preserve, but are threatened by logging operations, housing developments and drainage projects which would spoil highly desirable recreational resources and irreplaceable natural areas, and which would create problem of siltation in the waterways of the area; and

Whereas a number of private interests have expressed favor for supplementing the several preserve areas in the Big Thicket with recreational waterways and forested corridors connecting those areas, thereby setting aside a more complete land and water system than isolated and vulnerable parcels could provide; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Izaak Walton League of America in convention assembled at Denver, Colorado, this 12th day of July, 1968, that support is hereby expressed for establishment of a Big Thicket national preserve of approximately 100,000 acres, based upon a plan which will preserve the most ecologically significant natural areas; create public riverway and recreational interconnecting corridors between the nature preserves along the Neches River, Village Creek and Pine Island Bayou, and which would establish a national wildlife refuge in a selected area of the Big Thicket now operated by the Army Corps of Engineers.

RESOLUTION—TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Whereas Texas is blessed with a wide variety of forests, mountains, deserts and plains, and

Whereas the "Big Thicket" of Texas, located in parts of Hardin, Liberty, San Jacinto, Polk, Montgomery and Tyler Counties is one of the most unique forest areas in the United States, containing species of loblolly pines, beech, chestnut oak, magnolia, white oak, witch hazel, cherry laurel, silverbell and other species of woody vines and small trees; and

Whereas a portion of the "Big Thicket" should be preserved in order that the forest habitat might remain naturally balanced for both plant and animal population native to the thicket forest; and

Whereas Senator Ralph Yarborough has introduced S. 4 which would create a national park in the East Texas area called the "Big Thicket", now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Texas State Historical Survey Committee hereby endorses this legislation and requests the Texas Congressional Delegation to give the measure their full support.

Done at Austin, Texas this 28th day of February, 1967, A.D.

CHARLES R. WOODBURN,
President.
TRUETT LATIMER,
Executive Director.

RESOLUTION—TEXAS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC.

Re Proposed Big Thicket National Park—Adopted by Board May 10, 1968.

Whereas the Big Thicket of East Texas is a fabulous region of forests, swamps, and thickets with an ecology that is unique because of an unusual combination of geological features and soil and moisture conditions; and

Whereas it is of great scientific value because of its ecology and of great interest because of its historical and legendary background; and

Whereas the area has already been reduced from approximately 3½ million acres at the turn of the century to less than 350,000 acres because of logging, oil operations, and industrial and urban development; and

Whereas it is so vulnerable at this time that delay may mean the destruction of some of its finest areas;

Resolved, therefore, That the Texas Conservation Council urge early action on Senator Ralph Yarborough's S. 4, which proposes the establishment of a 75,000-acre Big Thicket National Park.

Submitted by.

L. N. DEXTER,
Board Chairman.

[From the Houston Post, June 10, 1970]

SAVE THE BIG THICKET

The movement to create Big Thicket National Park in Southeast Texas got its start in 1966 when Sen. Ralph Yarborough introduced his bill (S. 4) to set aside 100,000 acres, to be preserved in its wilderness state before it is forever destroyed by the onrush of "progress."

There has been a lot of talk about the Big Thicket National Park in the intervening four years, but not much action.

Now it appears that the ball is starting to roll, with a hearing Friday in Beaumont by the subcommittee on parks and recreation of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Sen. Alan Bible of Nevada, chairman of the subcommittee, will preside.

Most conservationists agree that Sen. Yarborough's concept of a 100,000-acre park is the most desirable, but the timber industry and a number of hunting clubs in the area favor limiting the park to 35,000 acres. Rep. John Dowdy of Athens has a bill authorizing a park of no more than 35,000 acres.

Conservation organizations are proposing environmental protection for all the Neches flood plain south of Dam B, and the addition of a wildlife refuge of approximately 40,000 acres in the Saratoga, Kountze, Sour Lake triangle bounded by highways 326, 105 and 770. The total size would be about 100,000 acres.

In 1967 the National Parks Service issued a preliminary plan calling for nine isolated wilderness areas, the so-called "string of pearls" concept, which did not, however, include the "string." Later at the urging of the Texas Conservation Council this plan was revised to provide the links between the various areas in the form of public roads and environmental corridors for hiking and canoeing along the various streams. Both the roads and the streams would be protected by scenic easements.

One of the purposes of the Beaumont hearing will be to determine which of the plans is best, and what the total acreage of the park should be.

A substantial portion of what is left of the Big Thicket should be saved from the power saws and the bulldozers. It should likewise be protected from real estate development, an excess of tourist "facilities" and a network of hardtop roads. An area of 100,000 acres does not seem too large for the purpose.

The best way to do this with a national park, and it is to be hoped that the Beaumont hearing will be a significant step toward the accomplishment of that aim. The current public interest in protecting the environment should aid the cause.

RESOLUTION—THE TEXAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Whereas Park officials the length and breadth of our country proclaim an overstrain on park facilities—due to the awesome increase of the nation's population—and plead for acquisition of additional land suitable for park use while such land is still procurable; and

Whereas the area of East Texas known as the Big Thicket, by nature of its unique ecology, great natural beauty, multifarious plant and animal life, and abundant fresh water supplies, has since 1938 been successfully approved by the National Park Service as a highly desirable site for a National Park; and

Whereas such a park at this site offers the certainty of many benefits—esthetic, scientific and economic—to nation, state and region; and

Whereas preservation of the Big Thicket has been declared a special project of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs go on record as requesting the Congress to pass immediately S4 and set aside 100,000 acres of East Texas as a Big Thicket National Park.

Ratified: May 7, 1969.

RECOMMENDATION OF SIERRA CLUB, LONE STAR CHAPTER

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club has studied the 1965 preliminary study made by the National Park Service wherein they recommend a nine unit national monument of 35,000 acres using the string of pearls concept; the Lone Star Chapter is in favor of all this 35,000 acres but feels that scattered as it is it is too small a token designation to be effective and suggests the following changes and additions:

Neches Bottom unit should be extended to include most of the wild lands and forest between highways 92 and 96 on the west, and highways 105 and US 96 on the east from Dam B to the confluence of Pine Island Bayou.

A Village Creek unit should be added.

The Big Thicket Profile unit should be extended southward and eastward down the sides of Pine Island Bayou to its confluence with the Neches River. No motorized road should be built in this unit.

A substantial area lying southeast of Saratoga surrounded by highways 770, 326, and 105 should be incorporated.

The major units should be connected with corridors at least a half mile wide with a hiking trail along each corridor but without new public roads.

ORRIN H. BONNEY, *Chairman*.

POLICY STATEMENT ON BIG THICKET NATIONAL AREA

(Supported by Texas Committee on Natural Resources, and 41 Other Organizations)

We favor a Big Thicket National Park or area which would include not only the minimum of 35,500 acres proposed in the Preliminary Report by the National Park Service study team, but also the following modifications and additions:

1. Extend the Pine Island Bayou section southward and eastward down both sides of Pine Island Bayou to its confluence with the Neches River.
2. Extend the Neches Bottom Unit to cover a strip, a maximum of three miles, but not less than four hundred feet, wide on both sides of the Neches

River from Highway 1746, just below Dam B, down to the confluence of Pine Island Bayou.

3. Extend the Beaumont Unit northward to include all the area between the LNVA Canal and the Neches.

4. Incorporate a Village Creek Unit, comprising a strip up to one mile wide where feasible, and no less than 400 feet wide on each side of Big Sandy-Village Creek from the proposed Profile Unit down to the Neches confluence. Where ever residences have already been constructed, an effort should be made to reach agreement with the owners for scenic easements, limiting further development on such tracts and preserving the natural environment. Pioneer achitecture within these areas should also be preserved.

5. Incorporate a squarish area of at least 20,000 acres so that larger species such as black bear, puma and red wolf may survive there. An ideal area for this purpose would be the area southeast of Saratoga, surrounded by Highways 770, 326 and 105. Although there are pipeline crossings in this area, they do not destroy the ecosystem; therefore the National Park Service should revise its standards pertaining to such incumbrances, in this case, leaving them under scenic easement rules instead of acquiring them.

6. Connect the major units with corridors at least one-half mile wide, with a hiking trail along each corridor but without new public roads cutting any forest. A portion of Menard Creek would be good for one such corridor. The entire watershed of Rush Creek would be excellent for another.

Such additions would form a connected two-looped green belt of about 100,000 acres (there are more than 3 million acres in the overall Big Thicket area) through which wildlife and people could move along a continuous circle of more than 100 miles.

We recommend that the headquarters be in or near the line of the Profile Unit.

We are absolutely opposed to any trading or cession of any National Forest areas in the formation of the Big Thicket National Park or Monument.

In addition, but not as a part of the Big Thicket National Monument, we recommend: (a) the establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge comprising the lands of the U.S. Corps of Engineers around Dam B, (43) a state historical area encompassing communities of typical pioneer dwellings, farms, etc., such as that between Beech and Theuvenins Creeks off Road 1943 in Tyler County, and (c) other state parks to supplement the national reserve.

RESOLUTION—DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY

Whereas The area known as Big Thicket in the eastern part of the State of Texas, covering parts of Hardin, Polk, Tyler, Liberty and San Jacinto Counties, is beautiful, wild, covered with dense vegetation and big trees, and

Whereas Big Thicket is the last stronghold of the Ivory-billed and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and other rare birds, animals and wildlife, and

Whereas Big Thicket is now threatened with development and exploitation, therefore be it hereby

Resolved by the Detroit Audubon Society, that all possible consideration and support be given to Senate Bill 4, to create a Big Thicket National Park of at least 100,000 acres, as proposed by Senator Ralph W. Yarborough.

Unanimously approved by the Board of Directors of The Detroit Audubon Society, at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 12, 1969.

Submitted by the Conservation Committee of The Detroit Audubon Society.

JAMES A. HEWINS, *Chairman*.

RESOLUTION—DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

Whereas the Big Thicket of Texas is the last known abode of such rare and vanishing species as the ivory-billed woodpecker and the Texas red wolf; therefore, be it

Resolved That the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia hereby goes on record in favor of the immediate establishment of a Big Thicket Monument of not less than 100,000 acres in extent.

Dated December 18, 1969 and voted upon during the stated meeting of the

Delaware Valley Ornithological Club at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Pa.

FREDERICK A. ULMER, Jr.,
Chairman, Conservation Committee.

RESOLUTION—SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS

Whereas an ecotonal forest area in eastern Texas, comprising parts of Hardin, Liberty, San Jacinto, Polk, and Tyler Counties, and popularly known as the Big Thicket, is a natural area of unusual ecological and conservational interest, possessing vegetational and wildlife characteristics found nowhere else in the United States, and

Whereas much of this area is still relatively unmodified and possesses no known assets of high economic value, and

Whereas this area is relatively close to large and rapidly growing population centers of the United States where natural recreational areas are increasingly in demand, and

Whereas many members of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists (SWAN) are acquainted with this area and regard it as an area, parts of which should be retained in a more or less natural condition indefinitely for the enlightenment and enjoyment of the people of the United States, now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the membership of SWAN in meeting assembled, that this organization adopt the appended Policy Statement on the Big Thicket National Area, and

That it also endorse in principle a bill introduced by Mr. Yarborough into the Senate of the United States to establish the Big Thicket National Park (S. 4) as may be modified in detail by normal legislative procedures, to comprise a "block and corridor" area of approximately 100,000 acres (out of some three million acres originally contained by the Big Thicket area), and

Be it further resolved that the president and secretary of SWAN submit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and to his concerned administrators in the Department of the Interior; to concerned Members of the Congress of the United States; to the Governor of Texas and to his administrators of such state lands as may be involved; and to such other organizations and individuals as may express concern with this project.

THEODORE M. SPERRY, *Chairman.*

I certify that this is a true copy.

WALTER G. MOORE,
Secretary, Southwestern Association of Naturalists.

RESOLUTION—SOUTHEAST TEXAS RESOURCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

Whereas there is a vast area of unique natural attractions in portions of Liberty, Hardin, Polk and Tyler Counties; and

Whereas it is imperative that immediate steps be taken to preserve representative areas of these natural attractions; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved That the Southeast Texas Resource Planning and Development Area goes on record as proponents of the development of a National or State Park in the Big Thicket area, and pledge that over-all resource development plans will make provisions for preservation of representative areas of natural attractions in Liberty, Hardin, Polk and Tyler Counties.

Read and passed unanimously this the 27th day of October, A.D. 1966.

B. J. JONES, *Chairman.*

RESOLUTION—ROTARY CLUB OF LIBERTY, TEX.

Whereas United States Senator Ralph Yarborough has introduced in the Congress of the United States a bill that would create and establish the Big Thicket National Park; and

Whereas the Rotary Club of Liberty favors and fully supports and encourages the establishment of such Park; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Rotary Club of Liberty and its membership endorse the bill introduced by Senator Yarborough and encourage the Texas delegation in Congress to support the same.

C. M. WILLOUGHBY, JR.
President.

RESOLUTION—OIL, CHEMICAL, AND ATOMIC WORKERS, LOCAL 4-228

Whereas this Organization has come to know the many problems, frustrations and congestions engulfing our metropolitan areas, such as Jefferson County, and realize the importance and necessity of large green areas surrounding these heavily populated areas for recreation and outdoor enjoyment; and

Whereas the members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, Local 4-228, appreciate and accept Senator Ralph Yarborough for his efforts and sacrifices in the behalf of our posterity evidenced by the fact that he was instrumental in bringing about the establishment of Padre Island National Seashore and Guadalupe Mountains National Park; and

Whereas the members of this body encourage Senator Yarborough in his effort to bring about a better life for all by the setting aside of these vast areas remaining of our rapidly diminishing enclaves of nature's unspoiled beauty, leaving them for the enjoyment of future generations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of this Organization go on record commending the senior Senator from Texas, Ralph Yarborough, for his introducing a bill in the Senate of the United States to bring about the creation of a national park to be named the Big Thicket National Park consisting of some seventy-five thousand (75,000) acres of land located in the southeast portion of this great state; and, be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to Senator Ralph Yarborough with our deep personal respect and admiration.

L. L. CRANE,
Secretary-Treasurer.

RESOLUTION—AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS, COLLEGE STATION, TEX.

Whereas the Big Thicket area of eastern Texas is a unique area of great biological interest and importance to mammalogists as well as other responsible citizens, and

Whereas the unique features of this area will be lost to future generations unless prompt and effective action is taken to preserve it, therefore be it

Resolved That the American Society of Mammalogists at its 50th annual meeting urges prompt and favorable action in establishing Big Thicket National Park as defined in Senator Ralph Yarborough's Senate bill No. 4.

BRYAN P. GLASS, *Recording Secretary.*

RESOLUTION—HIGHLANDS ROTARY CLUB, HIGHLANDS, TEX.

Be it known to all concerned that the Rotary Club of Highlands, Tex., active and interested in all things which it feels is for the betterment of community, State and Nation, is deeply concerned about the future of the Big Thicket of southeast Texas.

Being fully aware of the many species of rare plant and animal life, virgin timber, and natural beauty of this great wooded area, we feel that the Big Thicket should be preserved in its natural state for the benefit and enjoyment of all our people.

Therefore, we, duly qualified members of Highlands Rotary Club, Highlands, Texas, do hereby endorse, both individually and collectively, U.S. Senator Ralph Yarborough's Big Thicket National Park Bill.

Be it known, also, that this resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the membership at the regular meeting of Highlands Rotary Club on Tuesday, March 14, 1967.

W. L. HERNDON,
President.

RESOLUTION—MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF HOUSTON, TEX.

Whereas there is great need to preserve certain unique areas of this country, and

Whereas that area within the State of Texas known as The Big Thicket is fast being ravished through the harvesting of timber and other human activities, and

Whereas a considerable portion of The Big Thicket should be preserved for posterity in its natural state, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Men's Garden Club of Houston in regular meeting assembled, endorse the Big Thicket National Park Bill as introduced in the Senate of the United States by the Honorable Ralph Yarborough, Senator from Texas, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Senator Yarborough, a copy to the Honorable John Dowdy, Member of Congress, and that a copy be spread upon the minutes of this meeting.

E. H. KIELSMEIER,
President.

Attest:

C. B. GILMAN,
Secretary.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,
Washington, D.C., August 8, 1967.

Hon. RALPH W. YARBOROUGH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: Since 1965 the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has been quietly tracing down rumors and reports of sightings of the ivory-billed woodpecker in an attempt to verify them. Many people have written the bird off as extinct, but persistent reports have always lent hope to the search. From such evidence as is available, there appears reason to believe it survives in South Carolina along the Congaree River; in northwestern Florida along the Apalachicola River; in Alabama and Mississippi along the Tombigbee River system; and in Georgia along the Altamaha. Louisiana has been searched repeatedly in recent years with only negative results. However, there are persistent reports of sightings that may yet be verified. Texas, until recently, has seemed the least likely State to harbor the ivory-bill, but it now appears to hold the greatest promise.

This spring we employed John V. Dennis on a special assignment to intensify the search. Mr. Dennis' experience with the ivory-billed woodpecker dates back to his search and discovery of a remnant colony of Cuban ivory-billed woodpeckers in 1948, includes collaboration in the Whitney Eastman searches in Florida of the 1950's, and continues with a current assignment to investigate the ivory-bill over its entire range under the auspices of the World Wildlife Fund.

Recent and reliable reports from the Big Thicket of eastern Texas convinced us that we should concentrate our efforts in that area. As a result of his investigations there during April, May and early June, Mr. Dennis reports an ivory-bill population of at least several pairs in the Neches River Valley.

The inaccessibility of the area, the dense foliage, and the extreme wariness of the bird made it impossible for Mr. Dennis to return with photographic proof of the birds' existence. However, the credibility of his sightings, as well as other sightings he has accepted, is not doubted.

An intensive and unobtrusive effort will be made by the Bureau to verify the presence of ivory-billed woodpeckers in the area, and determine their number and distribution.

In the meantime, we believe a widespread alert to call attention to our efforts and to solicit cooperation in protecting the birds and reporting their presence is desirable.

Publicity on the ivory-billed woodpecker appears to us to be essential to its preservation. The public must be made aware of its plight and its need for sanctuary, and must be informed that it is protected by law.

We propose to issue press releases on the ivory-bills in Texas without being specific about their location. We also plan to issue an endangered species leaflet to describe its status and habits and as an aid in identification.

We feel it necessary to involve as many interested people as we can in this project, and we feel a responsibility to inform the public, as well as to provide positive goals and objectives for the ivory-bills' protection and preservation on public and private lands wherever it is found.

We hope you will agree that these actions are appropriate and that you will give these objectives your full support.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN S. GOTTSCHALK,
Director.

THE TEJAS CHAPTER,
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS,
March 14, 1968.

HON. RALPH W. YARBOROUGH,
*Congress of the United States,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: The Tejas Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas at their meetings, March 8, 1969 voted to go on record—in accord with *The Big Thicket Association*, urging the conservation of "The Big Thicket of East Texas a National Park.

We urge you to exert your influence in the preservation of this area. It is *unique, big and beautiful*, and in keeping with the Beautification Program of Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. DANIEL F. DUTTON,
Corresponding Secretary.

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY,
Canton, N.Y., June 14, 1970.

Senator YARBOROUGH,
*Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: I have been following for the past year your support of Big Thicket National Park. As an ecologist I can testify that this is a unique area and as a citizen I feel that I and my children would be the richer for its immediate inclusion in the national park system. I have been dismayed at the delays and I hope that your committee hearings this month will facilitate speedy authorization of the park. If you are able to use this letter in support of the bill please do so in any way possible; as for example, sending copies to New York congressmen.

Sincerely yours,

KENNETH L. CROWELL,
Assistant Professor of Biology.

[Telegram]

COLLEGE STATION, TEX., June 17, 1970.

Senator RALPH YARBOROUGH,
*Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH BIG THICKET NATIONAL PARK

Whereas the Big Thicket area of eastern Texas is a unique area of great biological interest and importance to mammalogists as well as other responsible citizens, and

Whereas the unique features of this area will be lost to future generations unless prompt and effective action is taken to preserve it, therefore, be it

Resolved That the American Society of Mammalogists at its 50th annual meeting urges prompt and favorable action in establishing Big Thicket National Park as defined in Senator Ralph Yarborough's Senate bill No. 4.

BRYAN P. GLASS,
Recording Secretary, American Society of Mammalogists.

MADISON, WIS., June 13, 1970.

Senator RALPH YARBOROUGH,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: I strongly support your bill to establish the Big Thicket National Park in Texas. The preservation of tracts of land and their natural biological communities is important and far-sighted.

Very large tracts of land are needed to preserve the integrity of ecosystems. It would seem to me that the proposed size of the park should be expanded to ensure that these ecosystems can be preserved in as natural a way as possible. In particular, I would think the strips of land along the creeks should be as wide as possible.

We must realize that within a generation the population of the United States will be stabilized or at least not growing so rapidly. We will not need the land of the Big Thicket for raising food as much as we will need it for its wilderness and its wildlife.

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL NEE.

HOUSTON, TEX., June 5, 1970.

HON. RALPH YARBOROUGH,
Old Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: I wish to lend my support to S. 4, a bill to establish the Big Thicket National Park in Texas. I believe that lands in excess of 100,000 acres should be acquired to insure the preservation of the special ecological features of the Big Thicket and East Texas piney woods.

I specifically recommend that there be established unique specimen areas to be preserved in their natural and untouched state. Within these areas may lie the answers to questions we have not yet learned to ask. I also recommend that as part of a total plan for the national park that there be established: wildlife areas of sufficient size and forest cover for restoration, habitat, and protection; timber management areas for timber harvest and multiple use under concepts similar to the U.S. Forest Service; rivers and streams with wide corridors left in their natural state; highways to provide access; and recreational facilities situated so as not to disrupt the other areas. It is particular important that the entire watershed areas of the Neches River be included so that upstream changes will not ruin the river in the park.

The Big Thicket is a unique area in the United States and should be set aside as a National Park. Please give your support to S. 4.

Sincerely,

JOHN MUSGROVE.

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTION,
Dallas, Tex., June 12, 1970.

Senator RALPH YARBOROUGH,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: On behalf of the Texas Council for Wildlife Protection I am writing to say that all our membership is hoping, most anxiously, that your bill to save the Big Thicket in East Texas will have the approval of the Parks and Recreation Committee at the hearing on June 12th. Only illness is preventing me from attending the hearing, I had intended to come but am not physically able.

To my idea, it is the most important measure before Congress now. Unless it is passed, and a few others like it, the United States will become a world of brick

and concrete. I read the other day in Time magazine that at the present rate of disappearing species, in forty years there will be no more mammals left on earth. The Big Thicket will not only save a beauty spot for us, but it will serve as a habitat for Texas wildlife.

I hope you will have the same good luck you had in getting Padre Island set aside as a seashore park. In that hearing I was so glad to testify on behalf of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs as Parks and Wildlife chairman. I wish I could do the same now for the Texas Council for Wildlife Protection. Good luck.

Sincerely,

ANN GOUGH HUNTER, *President.*

DALLAS, TEX., *June 9, 1970.*

Senator RALPH YARBOROUGH,
*Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: We admire you for your work on National Parks in Texas. We trust that you will have a successful hearing on June 12 and 13 in Beaumont to secure the Big Thicket as a national park of 100,000 or more acres.

Sincerely,

Mrs. CLARENCE B. GILMORE, Jr.

WILLIAM B. TRAVIS HIGH SCHOOL,
Austin, Tex., May 12, 1970.

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: As representatives of the Travis High School Student Council, we wish to express our concern over the deterioration of our environment. As a result of a recent environment program at our school, we have come to realize the frustration of the individual citizen in combating pollution. We feel that one of the most effective ways of stopping pollution is through our government and its representatives.

The students of Travis High School will soon be voting citizens and will be able to cast their votes for candidates they feel will support effective legislation; but that is a few years away and this is an issue that will not wait. Therefore, we can only make known our feelings to you, congratulate you on what work you have done, and strongly urge you to do more in the future.

There are, of course, many problems facing us, but one we feel strongly about is the preservation of the Big Thicket. We hope that your efforts to make the Big Thicket a national park will be supported by all legislators and quickly put into effect.

In closing, we hope that this grave situation will take priority with you and that we will see more action taken soon to eliminate pollution of all kinds.

Sincerely yours,

RUTH STEWART,
SHARON DOYEL,
WILLIAM B. TRAVIS,
Student Council.

LUBBOCK, TEX., *May 21, 1970.*

Hon. RALPH YARBOROUGH,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. YARBOROUGH: Having visited the "Big Thicket" area about fourteen years ago when I was about nine years old, I remember the beautiful scenery of deep East Texas and I feel that the Federal Government should do something to protect a landscape of such magnificence.

The establishment of a National Park in that area would be an asset to the nation and the state. It would be something that people traveling through the state could see and enjoy. It may seem strange that just visiting the area one time long ago can leave such an image, but the "Big Thicket" is something that one cannot forget easily. Let's do something to preserve the "Big Thicket".

If there is anything that I can do from the West Texas region, please let me know.

Sincerely,

JAMES MORTON.

HUBBARD, TEX., June 23, 1970.

HON. RALPH YARBOROUGH,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR YARBOROUGH: This is an appeal to you to please continue your fight to get our "Big Thicket" made into a National Park area of 100,000 acres, and not the "String of Pearls" thing of 35,000 acres which would soon be like a broken string of pearls, lost, scattered, and worthless.

Also this is a "thank you" for all the effort you have put forth to save this area. Waco Garden Club, of which I am a member, has watched and worked for your bill. Our President is Dr. Cornelia Smith, just past head of the Baylor University Department of Biology.

Yours very truly,

MRS. LOWELL L. WILKES.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., June 9, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman of the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Thank you for your kind invitation to testify at hearings on S. 4, a proposal to establish a Big Thicket National Park, which are being held by your Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in Beaumont, Texas, June 12. I regret that prior commitments will keep me from appearing before your subcommittee in person. I am however, enclosing a brief statement which I would like to have included in the record.

Your courtesy in inviting me to testify is deeply appreciated.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE BUSH,
Member of Congress.

(Congressman Bush's statement was not supplied in time to be included in the record.)

STATEMENT OF GEORGE ALDERSON, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

I am George Alderson, Washington Representative of Friends of the Earth, a national organization of some 5000 citizens, committed to the preservation, restoration and rational use of the ecosphere. FOE headquarters are at 30 East 42nd Street in New York City; the Washington office is at 917 15th Street, N.W.

FOE carries out its environmental commitment through lobbying, publishing, and educational work. Our affiliate, the League of Conservative Voters, intervenes in elections, raising money and manpower to support the election of candidates committed to defense of the environment. The Texas coordinator of the League is Burgess Griessenback, 1507 Edgewood, in Austin.

Friends of the Earth appreciate this opportunity to testify on the proposed Big Thicket National Park. This proposal has been under study by the Interior Department for several years now and has been worked over carefully by citizen conservation groups in Texas and at the national level. While these studies have progressed, the destruction of the remnants of the Big Thicket has also proceeded apace, threatening some of the best features of these already-small relics. It is now time to act on the Big Thicket; we therefore commend the Committee for scheduling these hearings.

To those schooled in land management, Texas is known as one of the regions most ill-treated in the exploitation of the West, to the point that little is left to reveal the original native vegetation. This is a far cry even from the western mountains which, though logged and mined, retain a semblance of their native ecosystems. The Big Thicket, by its biological richness, points up the absence of similarly undisturbed lands throughout east Texas.

What's left also stands out in comparison to wildlands elsewhere in the United States. The diversity of life in the Big Thicket—the variety of natural ecosystems

and the numbers of plants and animals that make up these ecosystems—are hardly paralleled elsewhere.

Because of the loss of large sections of the Big Thicket to exploitation through the years, the remnants generally form a web-like pattern on the land, chiefly following the watercourses. In addition, larger natural tracts occur in several places, including one of 64,000 acres. Protection of these natural lands would create a national park of a type different from most national parks, which occupy large units of undisturbed land. In this case the quality of the remnants is so great that the area deserves national park status regardless of the lack of the large, integral area characteristic of the older parks. The total of at least 100,000 acres authorized in S. 4 will insure protection of this great remnant of the Texas that almost disappeared.

Friends of the Earth urge prompt enactment of legislation along the lines of S. 4 to save the last of the Big Thicket for all the tomorrows.

STATEMENT OF DOROTHY C. WAGONER, PRESIDENT, LUFKIN GARDEN CLUB

My name is Dorothy C. Wagoner. I am President of the Lufkin Garden Club. Our club was organized in 1934, federated in 1940 and holds a Blue Ribbon rating.

Since Lufkin has long been recognized as the forest capital of Texas, we have always been vitally interested in the conservation of our great natural resources. We have initiated and actively supported many conservation projects. But we have a strong practical nature and conservation to us means wise use. The economic values of our forest resources are just as important to us as the aesthetic values.

Garden club women recognized the desirability of preserving a portion of the Big Thicket and began working toward this end long before conservation became popular and long before many of today's most vocal conservationists latched onto the movement.

After a thorough study and discussion by all members of our club, support for the String of Pearls concept was unanimous. The following Big Thicket resolution was read and approved without a dissenting vote.

Whereas the National Park Service recommended in 1967 the establishment of a Big Thicket National Monument in Southeast Texas; and

Whereas the "string of pearls" containing 35,500 acres as proposed by the Park Service would preserve the unique ecology and historically interesting characteristics of the area; and

Whereas the dispersal concept would have the further advantage of distributing the economic benefits from tourism to all sections of the area involved; and

Whereas the renewable forest resources of the area are essential to the continued economic progress of our State; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Lufkin Garden Club endorses the establishment of a Big Thicket National Park or Monument of not more than 35,500 acres as proposed by the National Park Service in 1967."

Thus, the Lufkin Garden Club became the first garden club to endorse the 1967 report of the National Park Service calling for a 35,500-acre Big Thicket National Monument.

As women in other clubs become better informed and begin to realize the many advantages of the thorough detailed report of the 1967 National Park Service study team, their clubs reach the same decision. In a very short time, 219 more garden clubs and 52 other women's clubs representing between seven and eight thousand women have followed our example.

And our work has just begun. More resolutions are coming in almost daily.

H.R. 14391 by Congressman John Dowdy of Athens and Congressman Earle Cabell of Dallas provides for a Big Thicket National Monument of 35,000 acres. S. 4 calls for the establishment of a Big Thicket National Park consisting of not less than 100,000 acres. I have talked to many women about the Big Thicket and we will vigorously oppose any Big Thicket bill which does not specify a maximum acreage in a designated area with clearly defined boundaries. We respectfully request your approval of H.R. 14391. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF FRANK C. DANIEL, SECRETARY, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The National Rifle Association is highly pleased to have the opportunity to present this statement for the record to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs supporting S. 4 for the establishment of the Big Thicket National Park in Southeast Texas.

Mr. Chairman the National Rifle Association now numbers over one million members all of whom are gravely concerned with the rapid pace at which wilderness, open space and park lands are disappearing from our environment. Unless we, of this generation, exercise the wisdom and foresight to set aside some of these natural treasures as national monuments our children and our children's children will be robbed forever of much of our national heritage, a heritage which has blessed the United States of America with singular beauty and majesty unexcelled in this world.

We believe that the proposed 100,000 acre Big Thicket in Southeast Texas is a rare and unique microcosm of a biota which will fast disappear before the abrasive encroachment of commercial interest unless immediate steps are taken to preserve this great national treasure as part of our national park system.

It may well be that somewhere in the vastness of this unspoiled virgin wilderness that a rare and beautiful species of one of our native birds, the ivory-billed woodpecker still eludes extinction. This fact alone is sufficient cause to set this area aside. However, this is only of many values which we now have the opportunity to place in trust for the generations who will follow us.

Therefore, we urge, Mr. Chairman, that the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs report favorably to the Senate on S. 4, The Big Thicket National Park Act so that it may be speedily enacted and this area of unparalleled natural beauty added to our National Park System for the enjoyment of all the people of this country.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
Washington, D.C., June 11, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am pleased to have this opportunity to comment on S. 4, a bill "To establish the Big Thicket National Park in Texas." It is particularly gratifying to me, as a naturalist and conservationist, to see any large tract of undeveloped property being considered for the preservation of its natural state and conservation of the wildlife which inhabits it.

We at the Smithsonian do not have first-hand knowledge of the Big Thicket or its present ecosystem. The reports of the area which have come to our attention are lacking in essential facts and appear to conflict in several areas describing the land. It is my belief that these deficiencies and conflicts must be resolved, and an accurate picture of the area presented, before one approach to preserving the area can be advanced as preferable to another.

An additional issue in conflict, and which has a direct bearing on the intensity of my support for preservation of the land, involves the question of whether the Ivory-billed Woodpecker inhabits the Big Thicket. An ornithologist, specializing in woodpeckers, reported that he saw and heard the magnificent Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the Big Thicket in 1966 and 1967. The species used to be found from North Carolina and Indiana, south to Florida and Eastern Texas, as well as in Cuba. It has been reported only from the Big Thicket and the eastern-most province of Cuba in recent years. However, two other expert ornithologists failed to locate any Ivory-billed Woodpeckers when they visited the Big Thicket in 1968. They expressed scepticism of the reported sightings, but found numerous other species of birds in the area. If there is a possibility that this woodpecker either inhabits or is within the range of the Big Thicket, the area should be managed properly to ensure preservation of its habitat, as well as that of other wildlife in the area.

However, in view of the indeterminate nature of certain of the facts surrounding the Big Thicket, I believe legislation to establish the area as a national park should be delayed until these issues are resolved and the best manner for preserving any unique elements of the area have been studied.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this statement to the Congress from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

S. DILLON RIPLEY, *Secretary.*

THE COUNTY OF GALVESTON,
Galveston, Tex., June 11, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U.S. Post Office and Federal Building, Beaumont, Tex.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: I present this letter to you on behalf of the County Government in Galveston County, Texas, to urge your favorable consideration of a Big Thicket National Park in East Texas in accordance with the Bill authored by Senator Ralph Yarborough, that is, a National Park comprising at least 100,000 acres.

Galveston County is a coastal county of Texas, having approximately sixty miles of beautiful sandy beaches, very little wooded area with a great deal of the County quite low and swampy and subject to severe flooding from hurricanes. Galveston County has, according to the 1970 preliminary census, approximately 165,000 people. Galveston County is adjacent to Harris County, the largest populated county in Texas, and enjoys the industrial concentration of Harris County and Jefferson County. A great number of the people in Galveston County are from central and east Texas, and although a large number from Galveston County and particularly many citizens from Harris County enjoy the Spring, Summer and Fall on the Galveston County beaches, at least 25% of the Galveston County population pursue recreational goals in East Texas on fresh water lakes, wooded areas, and around the Big Thicket where camping, hiking, fishing and hunting reminds one of the days of the Texas pioneers.

In this age of the Urban sprawl particularly in the coastal area of Texas bounded by Jefferson County, Harris County, and Galveston County, we must do all we can to preserve thousands of acres of open spaces and the ecology and natural resources of our State for future generations. Nowhere in East and South Texas can this be done as it can in the historic Big Thicket where a few acres of the world as it has existed for thousands of years is still available. On behalf of the thousands of people in Galveston County who enjoy the wilderness and the Big Thicket of East Texas, and the millions of people in future generations yet to come who will look for a place where they can enjoy nature, and where our natural habitat is preserved, I urge your committee to support a Big Thicket National Park as presented by the Yarborough Bill, and to act now before it is too late. The lumber interests alone are taking 50 acres a day from the Big Thicket of Texas. Their rights should not be dominant over the public good. If the Federal Government does not act, it will all be gone while you and I are both alive.

On behalf of the County Officials and County Government of Galveston County, Texas, we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

RAY HOLBROOK.

POLK COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Livingston, Tex., June 11, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The Polk County, Texas, Chamber of Commerce is vitally interested in the proposed legislation to create a Big Thicket National Park or Monument, since this county is in the Big Thicket area of Texas.

Our members have adopted a resolution in favor of the 35,000 acres Big Thicket National Monument as proposed by the National Park Service and H.R. 14391 by Congressmen Dowdy and Cabell. We believe that this proposed "String of Pearls" concept would include all of the unique ecological communities now existing in the Big Thicket worthy of preservation.

We are opposed to the 100,000 acres Big Thicket National Park proposed in

Senator Yarborough's bill S. 4. This large acreage would encompass areas which are not worthy of preservation because the ecology has been changed by man's use.

The mainstay of the economy of this area of Texas is forest industry. Any large removal of forest land from production of timber for raw material for industry, would adversely affect our economy. It would also cause a loss of tax revenue to the school districts, county and state. This would place an additional tax burden on the remaining land and property.

We feel that intensive use of the Big Thicket area for camping, picnicking, viewing and other outdoor recreation would destroy the unique ecology which we want to preserve.

There are many places in East Texas on National Forest land, some of it on the large lakes, where any available Federal money could be better spent to develop recreation facilities for the public. We ask that this letter be made a part of the record of the hearing on S. 4 by Senator Yarborough.

Sincerely yours,

LYNN NIXON,
President.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE,
TEXAS A. & M. UNIVERSITY,
College Station, Tex., June 23, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate of the United States, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: As the Texas Extension Forester, it is my considered opinion that the public weal will best be served by establishing a 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument. A larger preserve will needlessly prevent additional privately-owned forest land from making its rightful economic and social contribution to the people of Texas. I would like this statement to be made a matter of the official record for your subcommittee hearing on the Big Thicket.

A 35,000-acre national monument will be more than adequate to preserve any uniqueness the Thicket may contain as a biological community. It is unfortunate that this matter has become the cause celebre for the national preservation groups. Unfortunate because, in playing upon the emotions of a "Big Thicket," these groups have obscured certain facts.

To begin with, the Big Thicket has been considered as a relatively small, poorly drained, semi-jungle forest area immediately surrounding the community of Saratoga, Texas. The Thicket's boundaries are difficult to delineate, but it has never been considered to encompass more than a few thousand acres. In recent years, preservation experts have expanded the Thicket area to suggest that it once covered several million acres.

In a very broad sense, this enlargement was proper. What these experts have failed to point out, however, is that the Thicket is really a part of the Coastal Plain forest type of the Southern Pine Region. The Coastal Plain type covers over 100,000 square miles, from East Texas to Virginia. There are many "Thicket-like forests" in some 11 southern states.

Another fact which has been obscured by the Thicket proponents is that it exists today, suitable to be set aside for a preserve, because its private owners have been careful in their stewardship. To suggest that private owners are not responsible in caring for the Thicket negates its very existence. Much of the forest area in and surrounding the Thicket is, in recent history, second and third generation timber stands. To the untrained eye, these second and third forests may appear to be virgin timber.

Finally, I would like to point out the contribution made by private forest lands to rural economies. At no time in our Nation's history has the need for this contribution been greater. The necessity to create economic opportunities in rural areas must permeate any decision on land use.

Timber, as a raw material, has one of the highest multiplier factors of any resource or commodity. Studies in Texas indicate that for each \$1 purchase of timber, another \$25 is spent in various wood marketing phases; most of it in rural areas. Timber must be, by its very nature, processed close to its point of origin. Additionally, each 80 acres of well-managed timber will provide full-time employment for one person. Removing 100,000 acres of forest land from timber

production, as a conservative estimate, will cost the jobs of 1,250 rural residents. Setting aside an even large area will cost more jobs for these people. These jobs will not be replaced by establishing a large Big Thicket preserve. As a result, these rural residents will be forced into the already overcrowded cities in the hope of finding employment. Other economic and social contributions of forest land occur from livestock grazing, hunting, fishing and other uses.

Be assured that I will appreciate your committee considering this information in your deliberations on the Texas Big Thicket.

Sincerely,

W. A. SMITH,
Forestry Specialist.

EAST TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY,
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY,
Commerce, Tex., June 10, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I hope that your Senate subcommittee does everything possible to establish the proposed Big Thicket National Park. Americans in the twentieth century live in a world containing a rapidly increasing human population and a steadily deteriorating physical environment. Quite apart from the great recreation value of such a park, it is urgently needed in the Big Thicket for *ecological reasons*.

The World Wildlife Fund, Audubon Society and various other conservation organizations have been concerned for years over the threatened extinction of many forms of plant and animal life. Many of these threatened species are being exterminated through the destruction of their habitat. The majority of the plant and animal species cannot exist without a suitable habitat. Destruction of the last vestiges of the habitat means the destruction of the species. One of the self-appointed tasks of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) has been the location and recognition of all the types of micro-environments in the world because they believe that the preservation of a representative part of each habitat will be the surest way to prevent extinction of rarer plants and animals. Surely, the Big Thicket, lying upon "the biological crossroads of North America" is a unique region and perhaps holds rare plants and small animals not found elsewhere. Certainly, being in an overlapping ecological zone, it is very rich in flora and fauna. The ivory-billed woodpecker, once believed extinct, has been sighted in recent years in the Big Thicket. The Texas Red Wolf, another rare species very close to extinction, has a small population in the vicinity of Beaumont and might become reestablished in a national park located in the Big Thicket.

A second, more formally ecological consideration is the establishment of living laboratories for the study of our world environment. Preservation of representative samples of all our geographic regions as wild areas means that scientists have models for comparative study of changes occurring in the rest of the original regions. It will be easier to trace any environmental degradation to its source. The Big Thicket is a smaller region but still large enough for consideration. One hundred thousand acres is a small percentage of the original 3.5 million acres and its preservation in its natural state will make easier the wise management of the rest of the Thicket area. For these reasons I urge the subcommittee to press for the establishment of this park.

Yours truly,

EARNIE W. DANIEL.

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY,
DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH AND DRAMA,
Huntsville, Tex., June 8, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I wish to go on record as heartily endorsing Senator Yarborough's bill to establish a Big Thicket National Park. About two years ago a colleague (Prof. Claude McLeod of our Biology Department) and I com-

pleted a motion picture documentary on elements of the Big Thicket, and I found the encounter with the Thicket areas something that can never be forgotten. I also saw newly cut-over areas of the type which may destroy the existence of the Thicket. It is most dismaying to think that this very unusual natural wonderland, which took uncounted years to build, could shortly be destroyed completely, and that future generations could never know its stirring and yet comforting beauty.

Yours truly,

CHARLES A. SCHMIDT, *Director.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN,
MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY,
Ann Arbor, Mich., June 8, 1978.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee of Parks and Recreation, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists is concerned with threats to the healthy maintenance of natural populations of fishes, reptiles, and amphibians, for these animals are of particular interest to our group. The most seriously threatened of such organisms are inhabitants of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems which, in recent years, have all too frequently been modified or destroyed without regard to the effects on native biota.

The Society fully supports the bill, S. 4, to establish a 100,000-acre Big Thicket National Park in southeastern Texas. This region embraces watersheds that are the habitat for a rich and varied fauna of fishes and amphibians, including a number of aquatic and semi-aquatic salamanders. Many of these animals occur in Texas only in this section of the state, which is a unique region of great scenic beauty as well as outstanding scientific value.

Areas such as this one need to be made available for future generations of biologists as representative of a diversified, climax aquatic community that can serve as a comparative scientific study resource. With our burgeoning population and "advancing" technocracy, fewer such places remain as each year passes.

I respectfully request that this letter be made a part of the record on the hearings for S. 4.

Sincerely,

ROBERT R. MILLER,
*Chairman, Conservation Committee,
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.*

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
OFFICE OF RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO,
La Jolla, Calif., June 20, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: I have just learned that the Big Thicket National Park is currently under consideration, and would like personally to urge that everything possible be done to preserve this unique environment.

I was raised in East Texas. My father was an engineer for the State Highway Department, and we lived in various places, including Beaumont, Tyler, Crockett, and Livingston. Crockett was where we stayed longest, but the country around Livingston is what has stayed most strongly in my mind. As a zoology student at Texas A&M (this was in 1934, 35, and 36) I took off for the Big Thicket country at every opportunity, hitch-hiking for the most part, doing everything I could to be a part of this lovely area. In the summer of 1935 I worked as an assistant to Dr. Walter Penn Taylor in a survey of the animal life of Walker County, Texas, for the then Bureau of Biological Survey. Dr. Taylor was new to Texas at that time, and I remember taking him on several field trips to the unspoiled parts of the Big Thicket, and I remember his great delight. We never succeeded in seeing an ivorybill woodpecker, although the pileated woodpeckers

became a familiar sight, and I have in my mind someday to go back there and meet the ivorybill.

There is more to the Big Thicket, of course, than my personal nostalgia. Its protection can advance the spiritual lives of generations to come. My son Matt, now in the Coast Guard and stationed in Boston, has grown up on my stories of the Big Thicket, and will visit there when he can. And at this troubled stage in the development of our country, I am convinced that our concerned young people, with whom I work every day, deeply need to see the Government take actions for idealistic, unselfish purposes. Preservation of the Big Thicket could be a big step toward bridging the generation gap.

Incidentally, after leaving Texas I became the Director of the Aquarium-Museum at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and remained in that post for nearly twenty years before moving into my present administrative work. I am still a biologist, teaching part time and writing books on the subject. Perhaps it is unnecessary to say that I am speaking personally, and not as an official representative of the University.

Sincerely,

SAM HINTON, *Associate Director.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA,
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY AND MICROBIOLOGY,
Norman, Okla., June 15, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Please enter this letter into the record in support of the proposed Big Thicket National Park. As a biologist I am both professionally and personally concerned for the preservation of the thicket as a unique sample of America's unspoiled landscape. It is essential to the health and sanity of the human race that a part of the natural environment be preserved in tact. This means that not only must we preserve open and undeveloped country side but that we also set aside virgin regions where human activity and enterprise is always only temporary.

We already know well that a stable and healthful environment requires a diversity of organisms and communities of organisms. Each loss of an organism from the living landscape whether it be the ivory-billed woodpecker, an insect species, a natural marshland or a soil microorganism lessens the stability of the whole environment. We have already lost too many of the elements of our natural environment in the U.S. We can ill afford to lose another.

In the Big Thicket we have the one last chance to save a significant portion of the upland and bottomland hardwood forest that characterized the south-eastern U.S. before the time of settlement. For the sake of all of us living today and those yet unborn, let us stop further destruction of the thicket by the loggers and developers. Will you report favorably on this proposal to establish the Big Thicket National Park and ask Congress to approve S. 4, Senator Yarborough's bill.

Yours very truly,

T. H. MILBY,
Assistant Professor of Botany.

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY,
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY,
Huntsville, Tex., June 17, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: By way of introduction, I am Claude McLeod, Associate Professor of Biology, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. My training, teaching, and research activities have been, to a large degree, in the field of plant ecology. For the past twenty years my research efforts have been centered in eastern Texas; an exception being field work (University

of California) in the Sierras of northern California, including a study of floral variations of the Truckee River from Tahoe to Pyramid Lake.

One recent publication dealing with area vegetation is entitled: *The Big Thicket, its History, Location, and Description*. This was published by the University Press in 1967. Results of this study were available for use by the National Parks study team in which the nine "String of Pearls" park sites were recommended. I was also a member of this survey group. Senator Yarborough has, from time to time, requested copies of this publication.

A more recent study entitled *Ecology of the Big Thicket Forest of East Texas*, is in press and will be published June 22, 1970 by the Texas Journal of Science. These studies were made to determine the vegetational "make up" or community structure of the Thicket forest type and to botanically and ecologically delineate this forest type from contiguous vegetational types. The results of these studies have been of some value to foresters, conservationists, ecologists, and naturalists who are seriously interested in defining and bounding the Big Thicket forest.

Senator Bible, I did not attend the Thicket hearing in Beaumont on June 12, as I felt the program agenda was accommodated. And frankly my judgment has only recently jelled regarding the desirability of the proposed 100,000 acre ecological area over the 1967 park proposal of the nine unit 35,000 acre plan.

This final judgment is, in essence, the reason for this communication. I favor, after prolonged deliberation, acquisition of the larger area for, among others, the following reasons:

I. Continuous observation of this forest area for over twenty-five years, convinces me that present management practices, indiscriminate utilization, and sometimes wanton destruction of the *hardwood* components of this *mixed* forest type is irreparably altering the natural ecology of the Big Thicket forest type.

A. Indiscriminate girdling, harvesting and burning (controlled) is designed to produce more pine timber to the total disregard of perpetuating the associated hardwood species, which with their associated understory species make or name the Big Thicket forest type.

These hardwood control practices alter, permanently in many cases, the original forest composition. Such species as beech, magnolia, and certain rare hickories will not reestablish themselves once the dominant forest community structure is radically changed or altered. This is of considerable significance in the ecology of this particular forest type. This forest management practice seems to be that followed by both government (national and state forests) and private owners.

B. This hardwood control practice will continue, indeed, it is necessary, for land values, taxes, and other economic considerations are strong incentives to produce more pines per acre investment to the exclusion of the far less valuable hardwoods.

II. The removal of hardwood stands from stream bottomlands to create water basin area impoundment has removed permanently almost one-half million acres of our hardwood resource in the east Texas Thicket area. It is highly desirable that some of the few remaining bottomland hardwood stands be preserved.

III. Inasmuch as more than 50 percent of the 100,000 acres included in the proposed park plan is stream bottom floodplain forest, mostly hardwoods, the upland pine producing lands are less affected, thus the timber economy is less affected.

IV. Ecologically, the 100,000 acres proposed is far more tenable than the 35,000 acre proposal. Certainly a greater vegetational stability is assured as well as a greater diversity of plant and animal life. This area, if brought to park fruition, could serve as an invaluable outdoor laboratory for at least four large universities located in the general area of the Thicket forest. Natural areas are desperately needed for research training of naturalists and environmental scientists, both so needed in preserving our natural environment.

Senator Bible, I offer the foregoing comments to help clarify certain points relating to the ecology of the Thicket Forest area. If these remarks are of any help to you in any way, I am pleased. I feel that speedy acquisition of this unusual mesophytic forest type should be of first priority to the Department of Interior and by all means should be preserved as a part of our national heritage.

Sincerely,

CLAUDE MCLEOD,
Associate Professor.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS,
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AT HOUSTON.

June 24, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I submit herein the resolution of 18 April 1969 adopted by the Southwestern Association of Naturalists concerning a Big Thicket National Area in Texas to be included as a part of the permanent record of the hearings by your subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on Senator Ralph Yarborough's bill S4.

My pine snake and I were pleased to meet you in Beaumont on 12 June and if we can be of further assistance to you and your subcommittee, please let me know.

Cordially yours,

J. P. KENNEDY, Ph. D.,
Professor and Chairman, Department of Animal Ecology.

(The resolution referred to has already been inserted.)

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY,
FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
June 13, 1970.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office
Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: We are proud of your outstanding record in Washington in saving our outdoor American heritage for future generations of Americans. We are looking to men of your caliber to help save the extraordinary Big Thicket in Texas as a national park for its scientific, educational, historic, and aesthetic values. Once over 3 million fabulous wild acres, this is part of our national outdoor legacy from far greater days.

May we urge that when this significant bill comes before your important Senate Committee, that you give leadership to saving this vital part of our American heritage.

Enclosed is an article I have penned, after considerable research on the Big Thicket, which was published from the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, by the Audubon Society, which we would like to enter into the hearings for the record when this bill comes before your committee.

Again, we are proud of your magnificent record in serving the cause of conservation in America, and grateful for your fine leadership exhibited repeatedly in this critical phase of American environment.

Thank you for entering this communication and attached document into any hearings your committee may hold on Big Thicket National Park—S4.

Very truly,

MISS BETTY GROTH,
Vice President for Conservation.

IVORY-BILLS FOUND ALIVE IN THE BIG THICKET

(By Betty Groth, Vice President for Conservation)

Great surprise to our natural world: While the last known Ivory Billed Woodpecker was sighted in north Florida more than ten years ago and the bird considered extinct, Ivory Bills have now been found alive in the Texas "Big Thicket." Twenty-one inches, plumage glossy blue-black, regal crest bright red, white stripes, and white in primaries, iris lemon-yellow, this feathered axman of power protects giant diseased trees from boring beetles and injurious insect larvae other birds cannot reach. *Campephilus principalis* (Linnaeus)—once boss carpenter of the bird world—is the biggest, handsomest and rarest of American Woodpeckers.

A bird of the deep forest solitudes nesting in the most inaccessible regions of the deep cypress swamps, it once had a range from southeastern United States, north to coastal North Carolina, and in the Mississippi Valley to southern Indiana, southern Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, western Kentucky, Arkansas, west to Texas (Brazos and Trinity Rivers), south to the Gulf Coast, and in Florida to the Big Cypress district south to the Caloosahatchie River. Now extirpated over its former range of great American forests, and considered extinct, this rare wild bird of powerful value has been found again in the Big Thicket.

What is the Big Thicket? Pioneers, working their way west from Louisiana into Texas in the 1820s found their path blocked by dense thickets stretching along many wild streams. Indians journeying by canoe were afraid to stay there. This sprawling wilderness of three and one-half million acres (in the north, beech forests and longleaf pines; in the south, palmetto jungles and cypress swamps) ultimately attracted trappers and hunters. Well into the 20th century, it remained a last refuge for bears and panthers and as a hideout for bandits and hunted men.

No other region of comparable botanic diversity exists in the United States. At least 300 species of birds live here permanently, including an unsurpassed variety of water birds the Roseate Spoonbill, Snowy Heron, Water Turkey, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, and the North African Cattle Egret. Also there are four kinds of owls, three kinds of hawks, and a few last (American-emblem) Bald Eagles. The famous Whooping Crane is seen there; so is the rare Red-Cockaded Woodpecker. In addition to having 300 nesting species, the area is a major resting place along the Gulf Coast for migratory birds. Every major American university has sent representatives there for research . . . Botanists, zoologists, geneticists, entomologists, taxonomists, environmentalists, ALL are concerned about Big Thicket and its value to science.

In spite of long abuse (game laws not enforced there till 1964), much game survives. In profusion: beaver, mink, otter, nutria, muskrat, wildcat, fox, wolf, red and gray squirrel, flying squirrel, raccoon, opossum, alligators along bayous, snakes in the thick brush, and an abundance of white-tailed deer in the dense woods. Jaguars, ocelots, bears and panthers were shot to extinction—bears as recently as ten years ago. (Hunters now regret the thoroughness of their job, having left none of these for today's game.)

By 1938, botanists described the region as consisting of one million acres, little disturbed as yet by devastating lumbering operations and clearing for farms. But in the following thirty years, lumbering struck hard. The extraordinary size of the trees has been recognized only recently. In or near the Big Thicket: the world's largest eastern red cedar, black hickory, holly, planetree, red bay, yaupon, sparkleberry, common sweetleaf, and silverbell. In his recent "Farewell to Texas," Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas protests that the Big Thicket is now reduced to 300,000 acres and is being dismembered at the rate of 50 acres per day. Conservationists must work against time to save this valuable heritage. It will not be easy.

Texas Senator Ralph Yarborough is heroically trying to save 75,000 acres as a national park. Justice Douglas and a group from the Department of the Interior, on their exploration through the Big Thicket, saw that lumber interests had chopped all magnolias in sight of the lumber "push" roads and left most of them lying where they fell. One company cut the entire beech woods that the Department of Interior had included in the proposed National Park. Another lumber company plans to fell all virgin pine woods. Opposing interests to the park deliberately sprayed with insecticides the heronry, killing all 300 herons and young except three. A 1,000-year-old magnolia was bored in five places and killed with arsenate of lead.

Meanwhile, in the depths of the lush, wet cypress swamps, and wild green forest solitudes of historic trees, the Ivory-Bills hammer nervously on giant trees, warning that time is short. This fabulous area must be preserved as a National Park for its scientific, educational, historic and aesthetic values as part of our National Outdoor legacy from far greater days.

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA,
Washington, D.C., June 17, 1970.

Subject: Proposed Big Thicket National Park.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The proposed Big Thicket National Park, near Beaumont, in Texas, is an opportunity to preserve and protect one of America's unique and valuable resources for all the people, and for all times.

I favor the establishment of the Big Thicket as a National Park of at least 100,000 acres in size, and further urge all citizens and agencies to support the

proposal, with a sense of expediency—that The Big Thicket in Texas is a National Heritage which must be kept as such.

I hereby request that this statement be included in the official hearing record of June 12th, 1970.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

WAYNE C. STAFF,
Vice President, The Izaak Walton League of America.

Washington, D.C., July 3, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I regret very much that we were not able to participate personally in the hearings which have been held by your Subcommittee on the Big Thicket National Park. It would be appreciated, however, if you would include in the hearing record this expression of our wholehearted support for Park designation of the significant Big Thicket in Southeast Texas.

For many years, the Izaak Walton League and its members have been saddened by the nibbling which has diminished in size this beautiful and unique area which is truly a national treasure. Your Subcommittee is to be commended for acting on S. 4 now, and we hope that it can be favorably reported and passed by Congress in the very near future. You know that you will have our continued support for establishment of Big Thicket National Park.

Wish best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

J. W. PENFOLD,
Conservation Director.

TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION,
Lufkin, Tex, June 24, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Parks and Recreation Subcommittee, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Reference is made to the proposed Big Thicket National Park hearing which you held in Beaumont, Texas on June 12. Thank you for keeping the official record of the hearing open until June 26. Since this letter will be postmarked on June 24th, we respectfully request that it be filed as an official part of the records for the hearing. The letter is being written to help clarify the record on a few points.

O. R. Crawford, president of the Texas Forestry Association, filed with his statement a list of a rare combination of 448 national, regional, state and local organizations signing and submitting resolutions favoring a 35,500-acre Big Thicket String of Pearls National Monument as recommended by the National Park Service in 1967. Since your hearing in Texas, nine additional organizations have submitted resolutions for a grand total of 457. The new resolutions were received primarily from garden clubs and other women's clubs.

At the hearing in Beaumont you expressed surprise that one forest industry in East Texas employed 3,000 people. Permit me to emphasize that timber based activities in Texas supply employment for 161,850 Texans.

Some witnesses in Beaumont implied the commercial forests of East Texas were owned by a few large companies. For your information, there are 150,000 timberland owners in East Texas. The major timberland owners account for 55 percent of the ownership in the Big Thicket area while the other 45 percent is broken up among many, many small ownerships.

Since perhaps the best authority on the East Texas Big Thicket, Claude A. McLeod, was not able to attend the Big Thicket hearing in Beaumont, it is important that his booklet, "The Big Thicket of East Texas—Its History, Location and Description", be made a part of the official record for the hearing. I have attached a copy for your convenience to incorporate into the official record and feel that the record would be incomplete without this booklet.

It is also respectfully requested that a copy of the February, 1967 advance report

of the National Park Service Study Team, "A Study of Alternatives—Big Thicket National Monument Texas", be made a part of your official record for the hearing.

Many newspapers throughout the state have supported the Big Thicket National Monument concept calling for a 35,500-acre Big Thicket String of Pearls. I am attaching seven editorials from such newspapers as the prestigious *Dallas News*, *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, *The Orange Leader*, and the *Diboll Free Press* respectfully requesting that they be made a part of your record for the hearing.

In addition to the 35,500 acres in the proposed String of Pearls, another 4,000 acres is already set aside in the Indian Reservation. The Profile Unit of the String of Pearls is anchored on the north to the Indian Reservation which is in the Big Thicket and is being developed extensively for tourists. Also, there are 658,000 acres in four National Forests. Much of the National Forest acreage is in the Big Thicket region including a large Big Thicket Scenic Area. In addition, we have one or more State parks, State Forests and Highway Department Parks in the Big Thicket area already set aside and established for public use. This vast acreage already serves as adequate buffer. In a sense you already have a buffer around the buffer so that additional acreage is unwarranted.

Permit me to point out that when privately owned property is acquired for the proposed Big Thicket Monument or Park, provision must be provided for access to adjacent privately owned lands which are severed and cut off by the public acquisition. By the same token, provision should be incorporated into the plans for establishing the Big Thicket project to make it possible for accelerated timber salvage following any extensive forest fire, timber blow-down from a severe storm, or other dead and dying timber following a severe insect or disease epidemic.

At least one individual cited as a reason for establishing a Big Thicket Park or Monument the need to protect the rare red cockaded woodpecker. I wish to emphasize that the nesting trees for this species of woodpecker are being protected on the 658,000 acres of National Forests in East Texas as well as on other public lands. Also, the Texas Forestry Association, as Mr. Crawford pointed out in his testimony, has established a series of TFA Woodland Trails, some of which are located in the Big Thicket. One of these is located on a 272-acre tract which is being preserved by the U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers, Inc. This 272-acre tract features a stand of 225 year old long leaf pine, numerous 170 year old loblolly pine. A large number of nesting holes for this species of woodpecker are being preserved on this tract of privately owned property.

A few witnesses made reference to a "declining population" in the Big Thicket area. While this might have been true in a period from 1950 to 1960, the preliminary census figures for 1960-1970 show that the population has increased in Newton, Jasper, Tyler, Hardin, Orange, San Jacinto and Montgomery counties. These preliminary figures list only Liberty and Polk counties in the Big Thicket area with declining population.

We respectfully request that your Committee support the 1967 recommendations of the National Park Service and as outlined in H.R. 14391 calling for 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument in order that the best of the Big Thicket—those areas which are really unique—can be preserved for the enjoyment and study of future generations.

Respectfully,

E. R. WAGONER,
Executive Vice President.

LUFKIN, TEX., July 2, 1970.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to express my position on the proposed Big Thicket National Park. I personally do not believe that the Big Thicket is unique enough to be of National Park calibre. If, however, we have to have a national park I support the "String of Pearls" proposal endorsed by the Texas Forestry Association. Any more acreage than 35,000 acres would be a blow to the economy of these areas and an unnecessary penalty to the timber companies involved. It is quite easy to take someone else's land in the name of public domain.

I thank you for your time to read my opinion.

Yours truly,

TERRANCE NIED.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., *June 25, 1970.*

HON. ALAN BIBLE
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: May I add my voice to the many who plead for the retention of the Big Thicket. Surely the need of the lumber industry is not such as to make necessary the devastation of one of mankind's greatest heritages. Recently, a builder told me that they were using less and less wood products. Materials such as aluminum, steel, plastics, fibers etc. were both cheaper to produce and more versatile in usage and in some cases, the manufacturers of these products were thousands of miles closer to the point of usage, than the forests.

Why then the frantic urge to despoil trees, some of which were saplings when our great country won its independence. A few years ago, this same giant industry, who now wants to destroy the big thicket, wanted to cut the giant redwoods of California—trees which were giants when Christ was born—to make packing crates.

I have no wish to jeopardize the existence of the timber interests any more than I want that industry to destroy the only such large timber stand in a state measuring nearly a thousand miles from Brownsville to Texline. Since the industry's own propaganda organs state that, through reforestation programs, they are growing new trees faster than they are cutting trees, I see no reason to despoil the last cool, dark, mystic depths of virgin timber which grace our state.

One last consideration is the preservation of our other great natural resources the cutting of the trees would jeopardize—the streams, the fish who swim in the water and the existence of wild life who inhabit the depths of the forests.

Please, Senator Bible don't make it necessary for the citizens of Texas to travel thousands of miles to other states to enjoy the Natural Resources we would relinquish if the lumber interests have their way.

Sincerely yours,

HOWARD T. AYERS.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., *June 25, 1970.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

I strongly support the 100,000 acre proposal of the Sierra Club for the Big Thicket National Park. This is a unique area. It should be preserved. If a 35,000 acre Park were established the wild life and plant life of the area would not be adequately protected. There is no reason why once again economic interests should be allowed to override recreational and ecological interests.

Lumbering companies are to be congratulated in their efforts in recent years to replant forests, and, admittedly, we need wood. However, I have a right as an American citizen to ask that some small part of this country be off bounds to those who wish to profit from its resources. I ask that 100,000 acres of the Big Thicket be one of these small parts.

Respectfully,

PHILLENORE D. HOWARD, Ph.D.

LIBERTY LUMBER COMPANY, LTD.,
Liberty, Tex., July 21, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I see by the papers that the Big Thicket National Park thing is still being kicked around. I would like to express my feelings on this matter, first let me say, even though I am in the Lumber Business and depend on Timber from the woods to keep me in business, the outcome of the Big Thicket will not affect me one way or the other. The big Corporations are buying all the timber land, and I am unable to buy any timber from them, the only timber we are getting is from the few land owners who have timber that have

not as yet sold their timbered land to the Large Corporations. This is fast playing out, and I do not think we can last more than five more years at the best, unless we can in some way make a deal with the larger land owners who own land in this area. So you can see what is done will not make me one nickle.

I am against any Big Thicket National Park, the Government has enough parks enough land and has set aside more than enough recreations for people in South East Texas. I moved to Texas in 1952, since that time millions of acres of land that was growing timber then has been taken out of timber production by the Government. Dam B, Sam Rayburn, Toledo Bend, just to mention a few things that the Government has made, taking land from Timber Growers to make a place for people to have recreation. I believe that South East Texas has provided for enough recreation land, and that the land that is left, the people need for production of lumber, paper and other wood products, along with the jobs they supply for the people who live here, and the taxes they supply for all levels of Government.

Please look at the land the Government now owns, just look at the Taxes Local Governments have lost because the Government has taken land. Look at the land that has to be used for people to live, for roads, pipe lines and other things, all this means that more and more timber must be produced on less and less land. There has got to be a stopping place, us stop it now, Please.

Very truly yours,

SAM J. BASS, JR.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., July 22, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I wish to go on record as supporting the Yarborough 100,000 acre Big Thicket Bill. It is my feeling that this area is part of all our heritage and not for the use of small interest groups. It is through efforts like these that our children will be able to enjoy the many things that today are taken for granted.

I would appreciate your consideration and support in this matter.

Yours very truly,

JAMES B. BOGGS.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., July 22, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I wish to go on record as supporting the Yarborough 100,000 acre Big Thicket Bill. It is my feeling that this area is part of all our heritage and not for the use of small interest groups. It is through efforts like these that our children will be able to enjoy the many things that today are taken for granted.

I would appreciate your consideration and support in this matter.

Yours very truly,

DAVID H. RUSSELL.

JASPER, TEX., July 20, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am writing to express my feelings and beliefs on the Big Thicket issue.

Some people have the feeling that the Big Thicket should be developed for the public to use. They think this would bring more money into the area and help the economy of the area. With the lakes to the north and the gulf to the south already developed for public use, people are not going to trample through undeveloped woods in great numbers. If the Big Thicket is developed to accommodate the public, then the whole effect of the park is lost.

Large numbers of people camping, hiking and picnicking will alter the ecology of the area almost immediately. The very thing the Big Thicket is known for would soon be lost. The primary purpose of the park should not be to serve the public as a recreation area, but to aid those people deeply interested in natural sciences.

This type of person is few in number as compared to the number of people who might visit a recreation area. I have heard the timber companies criticized for not opening their Big Thicket areas to more people. This type of park would not serve many more people. The cost of developing a one hundred thousand acre or more park should be prohibitive when we consider the few people who will enjoy it.

If we agree that the Big Thicket is not going to help the economy of the area, then we must think of what it will do to the economy. The more acres removed from production, the greater the effect on an already poor economy.

With all the predictions indicating a timber shortage by the 1980's, we need to be thinking of ways to overcome this problem. By removing more acreage from production, this problem increases. With the high cost of building today, what will the cost be with a timber shortage?

With all the publicity on ecology today, it is easy to lean that way. It will take a strong individual to show the responsible side of this issue. There is no question that the Big Thicket should be made into a park. The question is, how much is enough for the price we have to pay, and the number of people it will serve.

Respectfully yours,

DAVID NORTON.

SOUTH BEAUMONT LIONS CLUB,

Re Big Thicket National Park.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The Board of Directors of the South Beaumont Lions Club has unanimously endorsed the 100,000 acre Big Thicket Project and urges your favorable consideration of this proposed legislation.

Without reservation, we believe this is a very worthwhile project, not only for our area, but it would be a great asset to people from other sections of the country as well. The preservation of the Ecology of the "Big Thicket" should not be sacrificed in the name of technology for the sake of technology alone.

We wish to express our thanks to you for your interest in this project and for your willingness to come to Beaumont for the purpose of having a public Hearing.

Yours very truly,

W. E. TRAHAN,
President.

SEATTLE, WASH., July 8, 1970.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: On June 12, 1970 a hearing was held in Beaumont, Texas on the bill S. 4 concerning the proposed Big Thicket National Park in East Texas. I only heard about this hearing on July 3 and I'm disappointed I was unable to write in time for my views to be included in the hearing record, because I favor the establishment of this proposed park.

A few years ago I read a rather complete story on the Big Thicket area in a magazine which was very impressive. The story told of the possible demise of the area from logging, filling, draining and sub developing. From the information I gained in the story, I feel the area definitely should have National Park status and also be a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System if it is sensible to have such an unusual configuration part of the Wilderness Act.

Should it be possible to make this letter part of the hearing record, please do so.

Sincerely,

DONALD D. SNOW.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., July 22, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I wish to go on record as supporting the Yarborough 100,000 acre Big Thicket Bill. It is my feeling that this area is part of all our heritage and not for the use of small interest groups. It is through efforts like these that our children will be able to enjoy the many things that today are taken for granted.

I would appreciate your consideration and support in this matter.

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM B. STALTER, A.I.A.

TEXARKANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Texarkana, Ark., July 7, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Committee on Interior
 and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: There has been much discussion about the Big Thicket National Park in Southeastern Texas. We have gone on record as supporting the 35,000 Big Thicket National Monument, and we are still of opinion that this area would be sufficient to protect the unique ecology and the Big Thicket area as a national monument.

Our Chamber of Commerce would like to reaffirm its position and asks for your support on this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

L. E. GILLILAND, CCE,
Executive Vice President.

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY ASSOCIATION,
Jackson, Miss., July 24, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*U.S. Senate,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: It is our understanding that hearings will be conducted next week by your Parks Subcommittee of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee on HR 14391 and we would appreciate this letter being made a part of the record.

On July 16, 1969 the Mississippi Forestry Association, representing timberland owners, forest products manufacturers, and suppliers, went on record as endorsing the establishment of a Big Thicket National Park or Monument in Southeast Texas of not more than 35,500 acres.

A copy of the resolution adopted by the MFA's Board of Directors is enclosed. It points out that the "string of pearls" or dispersal concept would have the advantage of distributing the economic benefits of tourism to all sections of the area involved; use and development of land already owned by the Federal Government should be of primary consideration; and economic progress of Texas, which depends to a large degree on the renewable forest resource, could be substantially reduced by inclusion of more than 35,500 acres.

We hope that your subcommittee will act favorably on the position taken by our association in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

BEN A. DAVIS, JR.,
Executive Vice President.

RESOLUTION—MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Whereas, the National Park Service recommended in May, 1967, the establishment of a 35-500-acre "string of pearls" Big Thicket National Monument in Southeast Texas to preserve the unique ecology and historically interesting characteristics of the area; and

Whereas, the "string-of-pearls" or dispersal concept would have the further advantage of distributing the economic benefits of tourism to all sections of the

area involved; and making use of the already acquired federal lands surrounding lakes such as Rayburn and Toledo Bend for recreational purposes; and

Whereas, use and development of land already owned by the Federal Government should be of primary consideration in planning for the Big Thicket Park or Monument, with the purchase of additional lands from private landowners secondary; and

Whereas, the economic progress of Texas is, to a large extent, dependent upon our renewable forest resources which supply the materials to help build our homes, schools, churches, towns and cities, which would be substantially reduced by creating a Big Thicket Park of more than 35,500 acres; and

Whereas, countless forest products are required to improve the standard of living of this and future generations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Mississippi Forestry Association endorses the establishment of a Big Thicket National Park or Monument of not more than 35,500 acres as proposed by the National Park Service in May, 1967.

CORPUS CHRISTIE CHAPTER,
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS,
Corpus Christie, Tex., July 21, 1970.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The Corpus Christi Chapter of the Texas Society of Architects hereby strongly endorse the basic concept of conservation of our natural resources and preserves, in connection with the pending legislation on the Big Thicket National Park, and respectfully request information on how the project would be implemented.

Our country is in dire need of much action to preserve our resources and preserves through properly planned and coordinated conservation practices. We, likewise, should exercise restraint in trying to control the severe inflationary spiral in which our country finds itself. Because of this, we will appreciate your forwarding us the copy of a draft of the Bill so we might better understand the sequence which might be followed in implementing the Bill.

Yours very truly,

ORBY G. ROOTS, *President.*
AUSTIN, TEX., *June 24, 1970.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: My name is Eck G. Prud'homme; I am 76 years old this month, semi-retired and living in Austin, Texas, per address on my letterhead.

I have spent 40 years of my working life in East Texas and the Big Thicket, plus 10 years in the Ponderosa White Mountain Country of Arizona. My duties after the first few years of "learning the lumber business" have been literally from the seedling to the trade of sawmill plants. Managing the woods, the timber, and lands were of prime importance. Most of the timber cut under my supervision at various times has been from Federal or Indian lands so I am familiar with their problems as well as the dedicated and efficient job being done by these Forestry Agencies where politics did not interfere. For the past three years I have kept busy being Chairman of the Texas Forest Products Association Anti-Pollution Committee together with what consulting I had time to take care of.

I am not a Graduate Forester, but I have served two terms as President of the Texas Forestry Association and I have studied and applied good management and good forestry practices at all times, which is what most all other mill operators have done for the past 20 or 30 years since application of good forestry practices were the rule rather than the exception in the lumber industry.

It is evident from the above that I should have some worthwhile thoughts for your committee's consideration. I am disturbed by the present seeming disregard of the rule of reason and plain horse sense, to say nothing of experience, to which our country has fallen victim, especially regarding timber and timber lands. I had hoped in the case of this natural renewable resource that things

would get better instead of worse, but reports from the recent Beaumont hearing on the Big Thicket, 35 vs. up to 100, thousand acres of Park, I am afraid maybe the sky is the limit. Therefore, I am writing you some of my reasons for asking that you not be governed by the highly organized few who have been so effective in directing the destiny of our national resources during the past few years and favor the 35,000 acre plan as opposed to the 100,000 or more acres proposed by the so-called "conservationists".

The large timber companies and sawmills are responsible more than any other group for the existence of large tracts for the Government to acquire and develop into the present valuable Federal forests. Further, they have preserved what they did not sell to the Government. The Government has encouraged them to spend vast sums to properly utilize the forest crop and to create a U.S. wood products industry, which, as we all know, is an asset to the nation and its people. Sure, there have been some who have not taken advantage of the better way to manage their forests—the same is true of other industries.

The foresters and the State and Federal forest departments have done an outstanding job in managing and disposing of the timber crops as far as their authority permitted. But the minority's opposition to the building of roads and similar necessary expenses of maintenance and proper management has caused a situation few people seem to realize or care to know about. I know from personal observation and have it on reputable and competent authority that in the Northwest more timber dies than is harvested, mainly because of lack of funds, even though the crop in question is a most profitable operation for the Government. And we all know why sufficient funds were not appropriated.

Much Government land in Texas is available for recreation and is in need of additional funds for development. I can't figure why not take the difference between 35,000 and 100,000 in maintenance and purchase cost and spend it where the Government already has the land and water. These forests offer just as good vacation land opportunities.

In conclusion, I hope you will be governed in your decision regarding the size of the Big Thicket National Park by reason after consulting those in a position to know the overall picture. And if you find there is a need for a larger acreage than the 35,000 acres, which I believe will satisfy the largest majority of our people, you will see fit to provide such additional acreage from lands already owned by the Federal Government.

Last, but not least, I wish you would investigate the cost of maintaining even the 35,000 acres considering only that which is timbered or suitable for trees. In my book there is not a more expensive location than the Big Thicket when it comes to controlling underbrush and bug infestation.

Sincerely,

ECK G. PRUD'HOMME.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., July 22, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I wish to go on record as supporting the Yarborough 100,000 acre Big Thicket Bill. It is my feeling that this area is part of all our heritage and not for the use of small interest groups. It is through efforts like these that our children will be able to enjoy the many things that today are taken for granted.

I would appreciate your consideration and support in this matter.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE E. CLOWER, JR.

RICHARDSON, TEX., June 26, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Please continue to do what you can to have Big Thicket, all 100,000 acres, set aside as a National Park. I believe that the establishment of national parks is one of the greatest contributions we in the present generation can make to future generations.

We should not give in to those private interest groups who seek immediate, personal profit. If we as a nation are committed to the principle of the national park system then we ought to try to have as large an area as possible under protection. Through the years, working during summer months as a Park Ranger and working on my Masters dissertation on "Wildlife Policy Of Yellowstone National Park, 1872-1917," I have seen the necessity of having "buffer zones" surrounding the immediate park area.

Otherwise many problems tend to develop and unless there is a sympathetic, willing, non-politically motivated (very rare) state government cooperating with the Department of Interior all sorts of deteriorating problems will develop. One example would be a conflict in the hunting season of the state with the migratory patterns of wildlife within the park. In any case, I am hopeful that the conservation-minded adherents of the Big Thicket will prevail over the lumber and other narrow private interests.

Thank you for working for the public good.

Sincerely,

JEROME KASTEN.

SILSBEE, TEX., June 24, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,

Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I would like for you and your committee to please support the position as recommended by the National Park Service in 1967 as outlined in H.R. 14391 calling for a 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument.

This is also to request that this communication be made a part of the official record for the hearing.

It is my feeling that the 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument will meet the need of the people of this area. Many people depend upon these lands and resources for their livelihood and this would mean less jobs for them.

Having been preserved for many, many years by the land owners, the thicket is a natural monument as it stands today. No good purpose could be served by having excessive acreage tied up in non-tax paying, non-productive forest lands.

For the above reasons I strongly urge you and your committee to support the 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument.

Yours very truly,

C. B. STEVENS.

SILSBEE, TEX., June 24, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,

Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: This is to ask you and your committee to please support the position as recommended by the National Park Service in 1967 as outlined in H.R. 14391 calling for a 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument.

This will also request that this communication be made a part of the official record for the hearing.

I strongly feel that the 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument will be adequate to the needs of the people in this area. Any larger area than this would infringe upon the rights and jobs of all the land owners too greatly. There would be less and less tax revenue and less jobs.

For these and many other reasons, I hope that you and your committee will support the 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument.

Yours very truly,

BILLY B. BURCHAM.

DALLAS, TEX., June 26, 1970.

Re Big Thicket National Park.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The bill introduced by Senator Yarborough would establish a chain of park areas and natural preserves linked by environmental corridors along the streams and roadway of the unique Big Thicket National Park. It has been my privilege to enjoy this unspoiled remnant of Texas.

The Executive Committee of the Texas Society of Architects which I am satisfied represents the opinion of all Texas architects and the citizens of Texas generally considers the preservation of the 100,000 acres or more of the Big Thicket to be of sufficient importance to Texas and the nation to warrant the unqualified support of your committee.

Sincerely yours,

 GRAYSON GILL, FAIA.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., July 22, 1970.

SENATOR ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I wish to go on record as supporting the Yarborough 100,000 acre Big Thicket Bill. It is my feeling that this area is part of all our heritage and not for the use of small interest groups. It is through efforts like these that our children will be able to enjoy the many things that today are taken for granted.

I would appreciate your consideration and support in this matter.

Yours very truly,

 JERRY HUNT, JR.

WOODVILLE, TEX., June 25, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am a graduate Forester having practiced Forestry in South East Texas for the past 20 years.

Being very familiar with every part of the so-called Big Thicket, I feel that I am qualified to make a statement on its behalf.

The Big Thicket is not a large well defined area. It is more or less a series of small unique conditions that are spread out over many Counties. Trying to preserve these unique areas with one large 100,000 acre park would involve many acres not worthy of Big Thicket preservation. It would also be much more costly to acquire, and work a hardship on the residences and industries within its boundaries.

Therefore I urge your Committee to give prime consideration to H.R. 14391, the 35,500 acre "String Of Pearls" concept of small unique multi-purpose areas, as recommended by the National Park Service, in the establishment of the Big Thicket National Monument.

Yours truly,

 IRWIN F. GRILLOT.

DALLAS, TEX., June 24, 1970.

Re Big Thicket National Park.

SENATOR ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Mrs. Taggart and I appreciate your interest in the proposed Big Thicket National Park.

We are most hopeful that your Committee, the National Parks Service, and the Department of the Interior will favorably consider the establishment of this Park.

We hope, further, that the Park may be established in sufficient size and continuity necessary to preserve and protect the area's present beauty and unique ecology.

Once destroyed, it can never be replaced.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

WM. W. TAGGART.

LIVINGSTON, TEX., June 22, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,

Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I was unable to attend the hearing in Beaumont, Texas, on June 12 due to other pressing business, however, I would like to express my views on the proposed Big Thicket National Park and ask that this letter be included as a part of the record for that hearing, which, I understand, will remain open through June 26.

I strongly recommend that the Committee follow the recommendation of the National Park Service and the Texas Forestry Association calling for a 35,000 acre acquisition for the Big Thicket National Monument.

Our company owns and operates timberland in the East Texas area, although none is directly involved in the Big Thicket area. I am well acquainted with the ecology and terrain of the area and feel very definitely that the 35,000 acre area would be more than ample to fill all needs.

An acquisition of the size proposed by proponents of the 100,000 acre to 800,000 acre size would be a gross waste of governmental funds, which could, in my opinion, be better utilized by developing recreational facilities on land already in government ownership, but lying idle, in the several National Forests in our area, many of which offer better potential terrain- and location-wise than the low, swampy area being considered in the Big Thicket area.

Yours truly,

BEN R. OGLETREE.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., July 22, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I wish to go on record as supporting the Yarborough 100,000 acre Big Thicket Bill. It is my feeling that this area is part of all our heritage and not for the use of small interest groups. It is through efforts like these that our children will be able to enjoy the many things that today are taken for granted.

I would appreciate your consideration and support in this matter.

Yours very truly,

DEBBIE KJONAAS.

McKINNEY, TEX., June 21, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am an ecologist, an educator, the director of a private natural science museum and wildlife sanctuary. I am writing this letter in the role of a concerned private citizen.

You have heard much testimony and received many letters pro and con regarding the proposed Big Thicket National Park. I would like to emphasize three points, which I think are significant and which I have not seen mentioned in any of the publicity regarding the hearings.

1. The ecological principle that "stability of the environment results from diversity" should be taken into account when considering the alternative plans. Eliminating the intervening area from the "string of emeralds" system would remove some subcommunities which would be necessary to complete the diverse ecological assemblage which is the Big Thicket. Even "tree farming" as carried

on by the timber companies reduces diversity by concentrating on one species . . . the pine tree.

2. The educational usefulness of the completely separated "islands" would be much less than that of a connected, integrated single (albeit dendritic) unit. For class field trip purposes, it would be comparable to skipping every other chapter or so of a textbook. For graduate research purposes, it would be similar to a paleontologist or archeologist having to study only scattered fragments of a past flora/fauna or a past civilization, *even though the connecting parts are available for saving, NOW!*

3. I have not seen it mentioned, when comparisons are made of testimonies by the timber interests and the environmentalists, that the former are doing this to protect their financial interests whereas the latter are doing it for humanitarian purposes, with no thought of making any money from it and every chance of spending not only money but energies and souls with no hope of return save the satisfaction of knowing that they have contributed to the preservation of a healthy environment for future generations. I ask you, which of these is more likely to be completely honest and sincere in their words and actions?

Respectfully,

HAROLD E. LAUGHLIN, Ph. D.

NACOGDOCHES, TEX., June 24, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I have lived in and around the East Texas Piney Woods area all my life and enjoy an occasional fishing trip or family picnic and appreciate places being made available to do these things. However, when someone comes up with the idea of tying up a 100,000 acre tract, or more in an area called the Big Thicket that is either too hot or too wet to enjoy these things, I am against it.

If the government has that much money to spend, let them build more recreation places around lakes that are in existence so that we people from the towns and cities can really enjoy them.

You had a hearing in Beaumont, Texas on June 12th that I could not attend, but I would appreciate my statement being made a part of your record.

Yours very truly,

MISS ROSSIE RUSSELL.

ANGELINA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Lufkin, Tex., June 24, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: First, let us express our appreciation and thanks to you and your committee for your kindness extended to us at the Public Hearing in Beaumont concerning the Big Thicket. We are grateful for your extreme desire to arrive at the best possible solution on behalf of all the people.

Secondly, we reiterate our strong and considered belief that it will not require any more than 35,500 acres to accomplish the purpose of setting aside the Big Thicket Monument. We urge that your committee insist that "specialists in this field" check deeply into the proposal and come up with an objective recommendation.

We do not believe that this monument should be settled on the "emotionalism" created by many of the proponents of acquiring vast acreage for the project.

The establishment of a *scientific ecological research center* as a part of the proposed Big Thicket project was mentioned by one of the witnesses. This idea seems to have merit and the creation thereof could well aid in maintenance of an area in the forest which would be of great benefit to those of extreme interest and dedication to the ecology of such an area.

Whether or not the 35,500 acres is sufficient land, we do not honestly know.

We do believe that if this project is reviewed by objective experts, you will not come to a conclusion that 100,000 or more acres will be required.

Your further consideration of our position will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

HERMAN BROWN, *Manager.*

TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC.,
Del Rio, Tex., June 23, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: This letter is written to express my complete endorsement of Senator Ralph Yarborough's bill, S. 4, to establish a Big Thicket National Park of at least 100,000 acres in East Texas.

In studying the ecology of the area and discussing the proposal with well informed conservationists, it appears imperative that the Park to be established should have this much acreage in order to protect the Wildlife as well as the unusual plants and trees of the area.

This is truly a "must" legislation.

Very sincerely,

Mrs. ROBERT H. DOOLEY,
First Vice President.

ORANGE, TEX., June 23, 1970.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Reference is made to the Big Thicket hearing held in Beaumont, Texas, June 12, 1970.

I wish to make known my opposition to S.4 calling for a Big Thicket National Park of not less than 100,000 acres. I am strongly opposed to the creation of a national park in the Big Thicket area of more land than the 35,500 acres recommended by the National Park Service in 1967.

I agree that the unique ecology existing in this area of Southeast Texas is important and should be preserved, but this should be done in a practical, economical way without withdrawing a vast amount of acreage from commercial use.

I disagree with many of the statements made by witnesses who are in favor of S.4; particularly those accusing the forest industry of deliberately trying to destroy the aesthetic value of the Big Thicket. One statement I remember well, made by a Louisiana representative of the Sierra Club, in which he quoted acreages of hardwood timber that have been destroyed and implied that the timber industry was responsible. If this individual would check the records more closely, he would find that the big majority of this hardwood acreage was cleared by corporate type farmers to grow soybeans. Many of the other witnesses in favor of S.4 presented the same type erroneous information.

Thank you for allowing me to present my views.

Sincerely yours,

MARVIN TAYLOR.

BAYOU CHAPTER OZARK SOCIETY,
June 23, 1970.

Re Proposed Big Thicket National Park.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

Dear SENATOR BIBLE: I am a practicing attorney residing in Shreveport, Louisiana, at 437 Linden Street, with my office at 1625 Slattery Building in that city. I am conservation chairman of the Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society which has over 100 members in Shreveport. The central organization, the Ozark Society, Incorporated, is headquartered in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and has approximately 1000 members.

On behalf of the Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society, I make this statement for the record of the hearing held in Beaumont, Texas on June 12. I understand that the hearing record is being held open until June 26 for the filing of additional statements. Please make this statement in support of the 100,000 acre park a permanent part of the record of that hearing.

Our Chapter is composed largely of professional people with a common interest in quality outdoor recreation, particularly in what we refer to as the Ark-La-Tex area. Approximately every other weekend, our group conducts a day hike, canoe float, nature tour, or backpacking trip somewhere in the Ark-La-Tex. As a result of the planning and conduct of the extensive outing schedule offered by our group, we have become well informed as to the increasingly limited opportunities in our region for quality outdoor recreation—"quality" being used here in the sense that the recreational opportunity differs from the ordinary. The Big Thicket for people in our region is a principal source of quality outdoor recreation of a primitive and unconfined nature.

As recently as the days of my own boyhood (I am 33 years of age), unspoiled expanses of Southern bottomland hardwood and associated stretches of meandering lowland stream were common everywhere in our region and taken completely for granted. Within the short years of my own life, our well intentioned application of our technology has changed the face of our land and our region at a rate that is still difficult to fully appreciate. It has only been within the past few years that an appreciable segment of the citizenry in our area has come to appreciate the full impact of the price we have been paying, that is, for example, that a tree farm is not a forest, that a channelized stream is a ditch, not a stream, that our delta hardwoods could be leveled for the planting of soy beans in such great expanses that the once lush countryside could be made to be virtually indistinguishable from Kansas, that the streams and bottomlands buried beneath our proliferating reservoirs are lost forever for the enjoyment of this and all foreseeable future generations.

The pressures of our competitive economy renders futile the well intentioned efforts of many individual landowners and some corporations to preserve a representative remnant of this region's natural heritage. An example is the dedication year before last by the International Paper Company of some 60 acres of Sabine River Bottomland near Carthage, Texas to the Nature Conservancy. Amid much fanfare, this pittance of our former heritage was dubbed "Woodland Cathedral", and the dedication thereof made concurrent with the announcement by that company of its intentions to systematically "convert" its adjoining vast holdings from hardwood forest to pine tree farm. It is clear that in our region, as elsewhere, as long as the value of a corporation's stock bears any relationship to the dividends it pays its stockholders, corporate management entrusted with the care of our bottomlands must continue to convert those lands to usages inconsistent with our regional requirements for quality outdoor recreation.

Government ownership of the maximum possible acreage in the Big Thicket is essential to meet present and future demands in our region for quality outdoor recreation. No other site in our region has a capacity for meeting that requirement even remotely approaching that of the remnant of Big Thicket which has fortuitously survived to this date. There will never be more Big Thicket than now remains.

Sincerely yours,

WELLBORN JACK, Jr.,
Conservation Chairman.

WOODVILLE, TEX., June 19, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am a graduate forester and have practiced my profession for over twenty years.

I attended the Sub-committee hearing on the proposed Big Thicket Park that was held in Beaumont on June 12. You are to be commended in the firm, courteous way that you conducted the session.

As you must know from the many similar hearings that you have chaired, the "woods" and streets are filled with ecologists. I am confident that you can

immediately single out the small vocal minority that scream for some small segment of our ecological picture.

In this time of rising prices and the needs of our people so great, I cannot see how we could fund a large 100,000 acre (plus) area for the possible use of a limited few botanists.

If you could walk through the Big Thicket during most of the year you would appreciate the heat, humidity and general discomfort of the area. This definitely is not a recreational area.

In conclusion, I feel that the proposed 35,500 acre "string of pearls" embody all the features mentioned by our "knowledgeable" experts.

Sincerely,

W. F. SANDERS.

DIBOLL, TEX., June 22, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE

U.S. Senate,

Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Business commitments precluded my attending the Big Thicket Hearing in Beaumont on June 12th, but I request that this letter be made a part of the official record of that hearing.

Without qualification, I am in favor of H.R. 14391, recommending the 35,500 String-of-Pearls National Park concept, and am definitely opposed to S. 4.

When the National Park Service made its survey and recommendation of the 35,500-acre Big Thicket National Monument, now commonly called the "String-of-Pearls", I was serving as President of the Texas Forestry Association. That organization, along with timberowners, cooperated with the National Park Service in gathering data for their recommendation. I am, therefore, well aware of the considerations which entered into the recommendation and, also, the voluntary moratorium on tree cutting in the area until definite boundaries could be established—a moratorium which is still being observed. I know, personally, of the sincere agreement of the timberland owners that it would be well to preserve certain portions of the Big Thicket where unusual plant and animal life might be found and to make this area accessible to the public. It was felt, by both the National Park Service and timberland owner personnel, that this could best be done under the String-of-Pearls concept, which is, after all, a tremendous amount of acreage.

Since it is my belief that federal property should be managed to the best interest of the *majority* of the people, I am of the opinion we have three factors involved here—(1) ECONOMY; (2) RECREATION; (3) CONSERVATION. I would like to elaborate on my thinking on these factors:

Economy.—The history of East Texas clearly indicates that forests and forest products, with proper management (such as selective cutting, tree farming, reforestation, development of total utilization of trees, creation of recreation areas for multiple usage, etc.) brought the East Texas area from what, in the past, was known as a very "poor" area to one which provides employment for many and avoids the necessity of people moving to large cities to find employment. Well managed forests are also a good source of tax revenue to the federal and local governments. Removal of a large tract from tax rolls would deal a dramatic blow to the economy of the entire country—in addition to the tax money which would be required to purchase the gigantic tract. As owner of two tax-paying firms, as well as an individual taxpayer, I strongly object to the large expenditure of tax money to acquire a vast wilderness acreage, and to the loss of revenue to the government in the form of taxes now received from these forest lands.

Recreation.—Within the area of East Texas two great reservoirs have been built in the past few years—Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend. These are in addition to Dam B, Lake Livingston, and numerous smaller lakes. While the basic reason for building these reservoirs is water conservation and control, the federal government owns, in the Rayburn-Toledo Bend area alone, in excess of one-half million acres of land. The recreation areas which have been developed by the Parks Department and private firms are well-managed; are safe recreation areas for city dwellers who may not be familiar with the dangers of vast areas of swampy forests; provide the requirements of families who spend weekends and vacations there; and have the double advantage of being both forest and water oriented, providing recreation area for multiple interests. It is my

understanding that these areas serve hundreds of thousands of citizens each year.

Private industry, in cooperation with the Texas Forestry Association, is now opening to the public a number of hiking trails in their forest lands, which are usable by the entire family, and which are educational in that specimen trees, shrubs, etc. are identified. While quiet and secluded, these trails are readily accessible to the city dweller who wishes to spend a few hours in the forest with his family. These trails are prepared and maintained by private industry, without cost to the taxpayer.

Conservation.—It has long been the practice of timber producers to preserve unusual plant and animal life—whether they were harvesting on land owned by the federal government, the firm, or individual tree farmers. It is only because of the practice of this conservation that we are able to find (and to know where to find) specimens of unusual, or rare, plant and animal life today.

I appreciate the privilege of presenting my views to you and sincerely urge that each Member of the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation support H.R. 14391.

Yours truly,

JAMES L. LOVE.

SILSBEE, TEX., June 24, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: In reference to the issue on the Big Thicket National Park, I would like you and your committee to know that I am against the Park as such in any number of acres.

First of all, the thicket is there for the people to enjoy as it has been preserved for many, many years, and will continue to be. The thicket or forest is a natural monument as it stands today, having been preserved by the owners and taxes paid by the owners. The owners of these lands and the majority of the people in this beautiful State feel that their taxes are high enough without having a heavier burden placed upon them by the U.S. Government for the erection and maintenance of an artificial Big Thicket National Park.

Please make this communication a part of the official record for the hearing, and I urge you and your committee to use your influence to the fullest that if we must have a Big Thicket National Monument the very minimum number of acres be used for this purpose.

Yours very truly,

EDWARD B. BROWN.

HOUSTON, TEX., July 6, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I'm not sure that I can add to the wealth of practical information that you have already received regarding the proposed Big Thicket National Park. But, I do want to add one more voice to the list of people who are lined up against the uninformed emotional group who would destroy the productivity of our East Texas Forests.

For over twenty (20) years southern wood product companies have been managing their forest areas to promote, not only more and better trees, but also the accompanying benefits of wild life and recreation. Without such management programs, much of the area would be desolate—not unspoiled "wilderness".

No one faults the farmer for harvesting a crop to feed the people but, for some reason, certain groups would destroy several industries which provide shelter for our people.

I would ask you to look around your office and decide how many of the things you see that came from a tree that you would be willing to do without.

Please do not support any proposal which would reduce the availability of wood fiber by setting aside large areas of productive land.

Sincerely,

EDWARD J. OSTERHOUT.

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE,
Austin, Tex., June 26, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Park and Recreation, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Because of my personal interest as well as professional interest, I am writing to urge your support of the Big Thicket Bill introduced by Senator Yarborough.

Aside from the preservation of the natural resources in the area there are several sites of architectural and historical significance worthy of preservation. Together, these three elements provide the basis for environmental corridors whose preservation are of extreme value to the citizen today as well as in the future. The loss of such properties functioning as an integral and continuous area will greatly enhance the prospect for planned recreation in the future development of the state.

Your support of this bill is earnestly solicited.

M. WAYNE BELL, AIA,
Restoration Architect.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., June 26, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: We are urging favorable action on the Yarborough Big Thicket Bill.

The preservation of the 100,000 acres or more and establishment of a chain of park areas and natural pressures linked by environmental corridors along the streams and roadways would be of a great importance to our state.

Sincerely,

MARIO BARRERA, AIA.

NEWTON, TEX., June 15, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: We are one of the small sawmill companies who depend upon other land owners for our raw materials. Toledo Bend Reservoir, Dam B, and Sam Rayburn Reservoir have crippled us tremendously. However, we have made no complaints.

We are aware that a number of chambers of commerce all over this East Texas area have endorsed a 35,000 acre Big Thicket Park. I have not attempted to get our Chamber of Commerce or the Lions Club to endorse anything such as this as it looks as if our timber land will eventually be in Lakes and Parks. However, I am not voicing a complaint against the 35,000 acres this morning, but I would complain to all who I could reach in Washington if the decision was on 100,000 acres.

Sincerely Yours,

CLAUDE H. WILLIAMS.

HUNTSVILLE, TEX., June 24, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The main consideration of the Senate Sub-Committee which you chair and those of us who are concerned with the "Big Thicket" is not whether the Thicket should be preserved, but how much acreage should be set aside for a park.

As a graduate forester and conservationist who has lived in southeast Texas for twenty four years, I am familiar with the Thicket, its timber, plants and wildlife as well as the humidity, heat, ticks and timber rattlers, and feel qualified to express an opinion.

The amount of acreage recommended for a National Park by Senator Ralph Yarborough and others is excessive and unnecessary. To remove so much land

from the tax rolls when money is needed is most impractical, as well as the great amount which would be required to purchase the land and develop the park. Senator Yarborough implies it would be a great gift to the people of Texas, but realistically speaking it would be an additional expense to the tax payers, most of whom would find the discomforts of the area overwhelming. The Sierra Club and other well-meaning groups who advocate parks of such enormous size suggest that there are no conservationists among the timber industry. Frankly, the timber industry has been most effective in promoting conservation; otherwise, the Thicket would have been destroyed long ago. Timberland owners recognized the value of our natural resources long before it became a popular crusade.

I support the recommendations of the National Park Service for a park containing 35,500 acres which will include the unique ecological specimens, etc. desired by the scientists and botanists, and as outlined in H.R. Bill 14391.

Please enter this statement in the official record related to the hearing on June 12 in Beaumont, Texas.

Very truly yours,

LUD E. KING, JR.

MORGAN CITY, LA., June 25, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I have just returned from a vacation that took me through the area of East Texas that is up for hearing on the Proposed Big Thicket National Park. I do not know that I have been able to write in time to make my wishes known or not, but even if they are not a part of the record, listen any way.

Year in and year out when I go west on vocation, I take the route through east Texas that follows highway 287 because of the beauty of this area. This trip we, my husband and I, convinced four families to take this route on their way to the west. There is so much to see. The woods are beautiful and the bird life so plentiful. We stopped beside one the creeks and let our feet cool in the water. Were can you do this? We talked of how long before this beautiful spot was lost. How long before some development project would cut out the trees and dam up the creek? What a great loss.

Then we heard of the proposal for the Big Thicket National Park and thought that a chance for some of this to be saved might still be possible.

If this cannot be a plea for the record, let it be a plea for your help for this project. Help it.

Respectfully,

Mr. and Mrs. THOMAS L. DEAN.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., June 24, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I wish to go on record as a citizen of Texas wishing for a large area, 100,000 acres, to be set aside and preserved as a sanctuary for the natural wildlife and vegetation of the Big Thicket area. We are glad for the help of Senator Yarborough and yourself for wishing to preserve this unusual place where the east meets west in natural life science.

Very sincerely,

Mrs. DONALD W. McCAIG.

NORTH BEAUMONT LIONS CLUB,
Beaumont, Tex., June 24, 1970.

Re Big Thicket National Park.
Senator ALAN BIBLE,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The Board of Directors of the North Beaumont Lions Club has had a meeting at which they considered whether or not we should officially endorse the Big Thicket Project.

After full discussion, it has been decided that we would like to support, without qualifications, the project of a Big Thicket National Park with 100,000 acres.

We believe this would be a very worthwhile civic project, not only for this particular area, but it would be of benefit to people from other sections of the country as well.

We would like to express thanks to you for your interest in this project and also, for your willingness to come to Beaumont for the purpose of having a public hearing.

Yours very truly,

JOHN GERBER, *President.*

DALLAS, TEX., *June 23, 1970.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Please add my name to the list of those who favor a Big Thicket National Park of at least 100,000 acres. We need this much area to provide connections between the "pearls" and to insure that the Park will not be encroached upon or spoiled by pollution from neighboring commercialized areas.

Considering that the original Big Thicket included millions of acres, it seems reasonable to set aside this small fraction of the original wilderness.

Future generations will praise you for preserving this heritage.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD W. BLUE.

HOUSTON, TEX., *June 23, 1970.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Interior and Insular
Affairs Committee, New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I have followed with interest the recent stories by the news media of the hearing on the proposed Big Thicket National Park conducted by you in Beaumont, Texas, on June 12. That interest was sparked not only as a result of my lifelong residency in East Texas but also by the fact that I make my living from the housing industry.

The so-called "Big Thicket" of Southeast Texas is not and never will be suitable for development as a National Park such as I have visited elsewhere in the nation. The climate is unpleasant, if not downright hostile, and the so-called "beauties" of the Thicket are certainly not obvious to the untrained eye. It may well be that some small area should be set aside in the Thicket for use by research scientists, but this nation simply cannot support the continued locking up of its natural resources on an extensive basis just because someone thinks it would be "a nice thing to do".

We are faced with an expanding population which will require, according to Federal government estimates, 2,600,000 new housing units each year for the 10 year period beginning in 1969. In 1969, the nation built only 1,245,000 such units, and the prospects are not much better for 1970. I understand that if we are to achieve this housing goal and those goals forecast for the future, the South must more than double its production of wood fibre in the next 30 years. This cannot be done by further reducing the source of our building materials (the extensive construction of reservoirs in East Texas has already severely curtailed our productive capacity). It is true that housing may be constructed of other materials, but the sources of these materials are not renewable, as is that of the forest-based industry.

Milk does not come from the supermarket, it comes from cows. Lumber and paper do not come from a lumber yard or a stationery store, they come from trees. The elimination of any type agricultural land from production in this era of exploding population is not just "Conservation." It is *national suicide.*

I urge your support of a National Monument in Southeast Texas to contain the absolute minimum acreage required for use by scientific researchers having the need for such a natural laboratory. All other timberland in Southeast Texas should be encouraged to produce at maximum capacity to feed, clothe, and house the world's population.

I respectfully request that this letter be made a part of the written testimony included in the hearing of June 12, 1970.

Sincerely,

WATSON S. FRICK.

JEFFERSON, TEX., June 24, 1970.

HON. ALLEN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: As a native Texan, familiar with the Big Thicket area of Southeast Texas, I am opposed to the concept of a large Big Thicket National Park for the following reasons:

1. The area in question does not meet the standards for scenic, aesthetic, and recreational values originally conceived by the United States Congress for national parks.

2. Very few people will actually utilize a large area of this nature because of the discomforts and inconveniences required to do so. Moreover, a number of excellent public recreational facilities already exist in Southeast Texas on National Forests and large lakes. The wilderness concept cannot be applied to this area because of the large adjacent metropolitan areas, and commerce over and through it.

3. The construction of public access routes necessary to make the area available for public use will destroy the very values of biological uniqueness that proponents seek to preserve.

In conclusion, the loss to the people of this region will never be offset by the advantages or values accruing from the restricted use of a large area of Southeast Texas. I know the Big Thicket, and appreciate its natural values, but it is not of national park caliber. The professional experts of the National Park Service have studied the area and recommended a reasonable group of areas, 35,000 acres in all, relatively undisturbed, for preservation as natural areas. I respectfully recommend that you heed their advice.

Sincerely,

CHARLES A. HOAG, JR.

JEFFERSON, TEX., June 24, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I would like to express my objection and, if possible, have my objection made a part of the hearings concerning the Big Thicket Park project in Southeast Texas.

The proposal to set aside such a large area for recreation is ridiculous.

Every summer I spend my vacation camping out with my family—wife and four sons. No one I have ever met while camping wants to go off into the wilds without some conveniences. What is needed is not large sums of money spent to buy such large tracts of land, but spending the money to develop what is already in existence.

There are thousands of acres already surrounding lakes and other natural areas needing development, but they cannot be developed because of lack of money.

I very strongly object to having any of the public tax money spent so foolishly.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS C. HAYDEN.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX., June 22, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: First, I would like to commend you for the manner in which you conducted the public hearing on SB 4 in Beaumont, Texas on June 12. You were eminently fair in letting all interested parties express their views.

Interestingly, no witness who testified at the hearing opposed the establishment of a park. Even vested interests, represented by the lumber industries, spoke in favor of a park, but of reduced size. The area is worthy of a significant park of at least 100,000 acres as proposed by Senator Ralph Yarborough.

The testimony presented at Beaumont stressed the uniqueness of the area called "The Big Thicket". It would be rather repetitious to enumerate the characteristics which make the region desirable as park land.

However, I would like to appeal to you and your committee to be guided by a sense of history. You and your colleagues in the Senate are privileged to be able to be remembered by history. No judge is harsher, nor fairer, than time. Short range interests and expedient solutions just do not stand the test of time. Please let me urge you to keep these criteria in mind when reporting SB 4 out of committee.

Sincerely,

HANS A. SUTER, Ph. D.

TEMPLE INDUSTRIES, DIBOLL, TEX., June 23, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: This letter is to voice my support of H.R. 14391 calling for a 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument, as recommended by the National Park Service in 1967. This, in my opinion, is a sensible, realistic, and adequate plan in which the majority of the acreage can be used by many citizens. I feel that much of the 100,000 acres proposed by Senator Yarborough would be inaccessible to the general public and, therefore, would serve no useful purpose.

I will appreciate your making this communication a part of the official record for the hearing on the Big Thicket National Park.

Sincerely,

HENRY H. HOLUBEC, Jr.

NATURAL AREA COUNCIL,
New York, N.Y., June 22, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I write to register my strong support for S. 4. I have known the Big Thicket for 40 years and am distressed at the increasing destruction of its unique biotic community.

The great eastern hardwood forest reaches, in many ways, its finest development in East Texas and a good representative should be placed under strong stable protection. I think the National Park Service is the logical agency to do so.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD H. POUGH.

SILSBEE, TEX., June 19, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I strongly urge you and your committee to support the position of the timber companies as recommended by the National Park Service in 1967 and as outlined in H.R. 14391 calling for a 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument.

This is also to request that you please make this communication a part of the official record for the hearing which will be closed on June 26.

With the consumption of the larger area acreage, too many people will be deprived of employment, either directly or indirectly. I and most of my family have been supported by the forest industry and I still make my livelihood from these lands.

Furthermore, the large timber companies have spent many, many years and dollars to develop the forests into a producing crop, just as do many farmers,

and they have the right to do as they please with their lands and timber. It is contrary to the American tradition to have no regard for the rights of the land and timber companies and to try to force the people to give up their lands and livelihood.

I see no objection to preserving a small area for a National Park, but there is no purpose in having such a large area and depriving people of jobs and reducing the taxes to the county, so let's be reasonable in our demands.

For the above reasons I urge you to support the 35,000-acre Big Thicket National Monument.

Sincerely,

Mrs. LOIS O. GROTE.

TEXAS COMMISSION FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Liberty, Tex., June 22, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*U.S. Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Please include these Resolutions into the record regarding the Big Thicket hearing that was held in Beaumont, June 12, 1970.

I would like to add that you made a lot of new friends in Texas and I personally want to express my thanks and appreciation for your coming. We had a good time together and I hope that you will not soon forget the Big Thicket and the Texas Indian people.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

DEMPSIE HENLEY, *Chairman.*

RESOLUTION—LIBERTY, TEX.

Whereas, the citizens of Liberty and the state of Texas and of the United States benefit from the facilities of National Parks, and

Whereas, the citizens of Liberty, the state of Texas and the United States would materially benefit by the preservation of botanical and wilderness areas, and

Whereas, the preservation of rare wildlife is of great interest to the citizens of the United States, and

Whereas, the creation of a 100,000 acre "Big Thicket" National Park would preserve one of the nation's last botanical wildernesses and preserve the remaining virgin timber, provide additional recreational areas, and aid in preserving many species of wildlife. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Mayor of the City of Liberty, State of Texas does hereby urge that the United States Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation give favorable recommendation to the creation of and the maintenance of a National Park of at least 100,000 acres in East Texas area to be known as the "Big Thicket National Park"; and be it further

Resolved, That Dempisie Henley, former Mayor of the City of Liberty be requested to deliver this resolution to the Honorable Alan Bible, Chairman of the United States Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation in Beaumont, Texas, June 12, 1970.

Approved on this 11th day of June, 1970.

LEVINE MAJORS, *Mayor.*

Attest:

MARQUERILE LAMB, *City Secretary.*

RESOLUTION—TEXAS COMMISSION FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS

Whereas the Texas Commission for Indian Affairs is charged with the development of the human and economic resources of the Texas Indian people, and

Whereas the creation of a Big Thicket National Park would directly affect and greatly benefit the Alabama-Coushatta Indians of Polk County, Texas, and

Whereas all proposed Park plans call for the terminal point to be at the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation in the Big Thicket and thereby cause an

estimated 1,000,000 visitors per year to enter and visit the Indian Reservation; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Texas Commission for Indian Affairs does hereby highly recommend and endorse the plans to create a Big Thicket National Park of at least 100,000 acres in size.

Adopted and approved this 22nd day of April, 1970.

DEMPSIE HENLEY, *Chairman.*
VICTOR FAIN, *Commissioner.*

RESOLUTION—DAYTON, TEX.

Whereas, the citizens of Dayton and the state of Texas and of the United States benefit from the facilities of National Parks, and

Whereas, the citizens of Dayton, the state of Texas and the United States would materially benefit by the preservation of botanical and wilderness areas, and

Whereas, the preservation of rare wildlife is of great interest to the citizens of the United States, and

Whereas, the creation of a 100,000 acre "Big Thicket" National Park would preserve one of the nation's last botanical wildernesses and preserve the remaining virgin timber, provide additional recreational areas, and aid in preserving many species of wildlife: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Mayor and the City Council of the city of Dayton, state of Texas in formal meeting do hereby urge that the United States Senate Sub-Committee on Parks and Recreation give favorable recommendation to the creation of and the maintenance of a National Park at least 100,000 acres in East Texas area to be known as the "Big Thicket National Park"; and be it further

Resolved, That Dempsey Henley, Chairman of the Texas Commission for Indian Affairs be requested to deliver our petition to the Honorable Alan Bible, Chairman of the United States Senate Sub-Committee on Parks and Recreation in Beaumont, Texas, June 12, 1970.

Approved and adopted on this 27th day of April, 1970.

D. R. DAVIS,
City Council Member.
SAM F. HUGHES,
City Council Member.
REGINALD WILSON, M.D.,
City Council Member.
W. FOREST,
Mayor.
TROY F. WILSON,
City Council Member.

RESOLUTION—LIBERTY CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, LIBERTY, TEX.

Whereas, The Citizens of the United States benefit from the recreational facilities of the National Parks and,

Whereas, the citizens of the United States materially benefit by the preservation of forested areas and,

Whereas, the preservation of rare wildlife is of great interest to the citizens of the United States and,

Whereas, the creation of a 100,000 acre "Big Thicket" National Park would preserve one of the last sections of virgin timber, provide additional recreational areas, and aid in preserving many species of wildlife: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Liberty Chamber of Industry and Commerce in formal meeting do hereby urge that the United States Senate Sub-Committee on Parks and Recreation give favorable recommendation to the creation of and the maintenance of a National Park of at least 100,000 acres in East Texas area known as the "Big Thicket"; and be it further

Resolved, That Dempsey Henley, a member of the Board of Directors of the Liberty Chamber of Industry and Commerce be requested to deliver our petition

to the Honorable Alan Bible, Chairman of the United States Senate Sub-Committee on Parks and Recreation.

Approved and adopted on this 27th Day of April 1970.

JOE B. BONHAM III,
President.

RESOLUTION—HOUSTON SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Whereas in the early days of the State of Texas there existed a great area of wilderness in the eastern portion of said State that was beautiful, awesome and dangerous to those strangers to its environment. This rare and amazing region filled with botanical specimens to be found at no other place in Texas together with a unique collection of animal life, was called The Big Thicket by the inhabitants of east Texas and in its original glory covered about three million acres of land; and

Whereas mankind in his prodigal waste of our Creator's bountiful and wondrous gifts to His children, has destroyed and devastated this once grand territory until the present day can show only a pitiful remnant of a former glory; and

Whereas human greed has so scourged the mind of man concerning this rare, beautiful, and primeval area that no thought was given to tomorrow with provision to retain and forever save choice portions of this grand wilderness, for only the idea of progress was dominant and it demanded that all merchantable timber and oil be recovered as rapidly and economically as possible which resulted in reckless destruction and utter disregard for irreplaceable plant and animal life; and

Whereas understanding groups of people have realized that some part of the pitiful remnant of this once great area should be preserved for those yet unborn and endeavor made to restore, if possible, such an area to a likeness of the original beauty; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the several members of the Houston Sportsmen's Club do present this resolution to our esteemed friend and United States Senator Ralph Yarborough as an endorsement of his Senate Bill No. 4, which proposes the Big Thicket National Park of not less than 100,000 acres of land in Hardin, Liberty, San Jacinto, Polk and Tyler Counties of Texas, and to this expression of our desire that the worthy efforts of our honorable Senator shall terminate successfully, we wish to convey our thanks and gratitude for his untiring prosecution of this cause against relentless opposition which seeks to defeat the creation of a park large enough for the required purposes. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the Houston Sportsmen's Club.

Respectfully signed by the officers of the Houston Sportsmen's Club.

M. J. FONTENOT, *President.*
H. H. CARROLL, *Vice President.*
R. G. HANSELL, *Secretary.*
A. M. AUSTIN, *Treasurer.*

NACOGDOCHES, TEX., *June 19, 1970.*

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am an individual concerned about the Big Thicket National Park proposed for East Texas. My forefathers sought sanctuary in the Thicket as a result of conflicts during the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. As a young man, I hunted and fished in the Thicket, realizing only after I left the area that it was unique. I am in favor of preservation of the Big Thicket, however, careful consideration should be given with regard to the size of the area.

Encompassing large portions of East Texas will not bring back the Thicket that I have known, nor will it preserve for posterity the "state of mind" that is the Big Thicket. Scientists, botanists and biologists can use their knowledge to select areas that will preserve the flora, fauna and wildlife that reflect the unique aspect which is really all the Thicket is.

Large areas will serve no purpose other than to include the smaller, more unique areas. Concentration of money, knowledge and facilities in smaller areas will give us what we really should want; that is, the preservation of the Big Thicket with the least tax money spent.

Emotion might dictate that we "shoot the works", however, reality demands that we consider only factors that are pertinent to the primary purpose of this proposal.

Please make this a part of the official record as related to official hearing held in Texas on June 12th.

Yours very truly,

HERBERT BRANCH.

WASATCH MOUNTAIN CLUB,
Salt Lake City, Utah, June 20, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I wish to support the establishment of a "Big Thicket National Park" and to support Senator Ralph Yarborough's bill (S. 4).

The Big Thicket (not so big any more and rapidly shrinking) well deserves the nickname of the "biological crossroads of North America". This is an area where resident tropical birds are found in the United States and it is also a refuge for northern birds in the winter. The area has an abundant rainfall and so the plant life is very diverse. The tropical character of the Big Thicket is found in very few areas within the United States. Logging is destroying the area at a frightening rate. If action is not taken soon, then another heritage of the American people will have been pocketed by a few shortsighted exploiters.

Senator Yarborough's bill will give a variety of recreational experiences to the public and will increase the awareness of the beauty and diversity of nature in a world increasingly beset with man's "concrete and steel canyons and asphalt". There could be a new world of experiences in peaceful float trips down the streams with abundant opportunities to observe wildlife. There could also be foot and horse expeditions along the trails that are planned. The proposed park is very well planned and would avoid the direct intrusion of automobile traffic on the waterways and forests.

I trust that Big Thicket National Park will become a reality in this period when the present parks are under so much pressure and more parks are so urgently needed.

Please include this letter in the hearing record.

Yours truly,

W. N. STRICKLAND,
Conservation Director.

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE AND BEAUMONT JOURNAL,
Beaumont, Tex., June 20, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR: Illness of my life prevented me attending your recent hearing in Beaumont, where quite a few persons gave their opinions on the need for a Big Thicket National Park.

I assisted in the 1930's in making a list of the flora and the fauna of the biological wonderland. I have walked its trails since 1916. There is no other region in all America with such a varied list of plant and animal life. This is true because it is the continental divide, as far as rainfall is concerned, and this promotes the growth of a great variety of plants. The Big Thicket is in the center of the zone, where the eastern flora and fauna merges with the flora and fauna of the west. We have the western Chaparral cock of the western plains, and the Virginia bluebird nesting in the same region. Various hybrid plants, hundreds of fungi, never named by science, great varieties of grasses, forbs, ground orchids, insectivorous plants, and dozens of others.

The cats, including the Cougar are there, and a large list of other wild creatures. The Enterprise has been supporting the proposals for making the Big

Thicket a park and wildlife preserve since the 1930's. I have given space in over 500 of my daily columns listing the wonders of that region, and I believe I am as familiar with it as any living man.

I heartily support Senator Yarborough in his effort to have at least 100,000 acres set aside for this proposed National Park. The so-called chain of pearls is a joke. The big cats would have to be fed, or they would be driven from the "chain." It takes lots of territory for such creatures as the cougar, and a puss-in-boots program just won't get the job done. Please help us have this region before it is gone forever. We can never grow another one.

Sincerely yours,

J. F. COMBS, *Farm Columnist.*

FORT WORTH, TEX., *June 20, 1970.*

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I would like to express to you and the members of your committee my strong support for the creation of a Big Thicket National Park or Recreation Area near the Dallas, Houston, and Beaumont-Orange-Port Arthur complex in East Texas. I would appreciate having my letter entered into the hearing records.

Sincerely yours,

J. B. SWINT.

FORT WORTH, TEX., *June 19, 1970.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am in favor of the citizens' proposal for the creation of a Big Thicket National Park.

I believe that we need a park in this area, and one that is at least 100,000 acres.

The Big Thicket is an unusually beautiful and interesting area. I have personally visited a number of different spots that are specified in the citizens' proposal, and I believe that their preservation as part of a national park would be a benefit not only to Texas but to the Nation as well.

Please have my letter read into the minutes of the hearing.

Thank you.

MISS JANET M. KETTER.

ORANGE, TEX., *June 3, 1970.*

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: As I will be unable to attend the hearings on the proposed "Big Thicket" Park, June 12 and 13, 1970 in Beaumont, Texas, I am writing to express my viewpoint on this matter.

First, with the large amount of government-owned lands in East Texas, how can we really afford to spend the taxpayers' money for additional lands and at the same time, remove 100,000 to 200,000 acres of productive lands from the local tax rolls. These lands are very productive and are contributing to welfare of many people in this area.

Second, it seems the proposal by the National Park Service for a 35,000 acre "String of Pearls" concept would be adequate. Certainly, this proposal should protect enough of the so called "Jewels" of this area to satisfy the preservationist.

Third, I believe there is enough land in Texas being made available by the U.S. Forest Service, Texas Forest Service, and industry to satisfy the demands for hiking, picknicking, etc.

The String of Pearls concept should provide those interested in nature with enough land to pursue their interest.

I would appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

LUTHER P. SHELTON.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 18, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
 Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 New Senate Office Building,
 Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I urge the committee to report the proposed *Big Thicket National Park* to the Senate with a Do-Pass recommendation. This spring my family and I visited this region, and camped there as well as driving many of the roads and taking photographs. We have been in over 30 national parks and monuments, and have seen none which provides the same environment seen at Big Thicket. The variety of wildlife and plants, opportunities to really understand the ecology of an area, ranging from semitropical rain forest to semi-desert grassland, makes this an area richly deserving of protection. The amount of cutting visible by lumber interests, and the sprawl of housing developments moving in, make fast action imperative.

The citizens' proposal for 100,000 acres along the streams, plus some connecting areas, would preserve what is left, and the distinctive ecology, without interfering with most use of the land between the streams. I cannot see how we can pass up this opportunity.

With increasing numbers of people needing parks, and increasing numbers going canoeing, this should be a mecca for vacationers. It is too bad that so little is left—but let's grab this while we can.

Sincerely,

RICHARD G. DAWSON.

DOUBLE K MOUNTAIN RANCH,
 Goose Prairie, Wash., June 19, 1970.

Re Big Thicket.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
 Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: We have never been to the Big Thicket; in all probability we shall never have a chance to see it. But we know enough about it to be deeply concerned about its future. It must be preserved, either as a wilderness area or a national park; the desecration that is presently going on must be stopped immediately.

We, as a nation, have behaved toward this whole magnificent country in a completely irresponsible, indeed criminal, fashion. These small islands of wilderness that are left in this country simply have to be preserved—at whatever cost—and no matter whose bank account is affected.

Please make this letter part of the Hearing Record.

Sincerely,

KATHERYN KERSHAW, Owner.

FORT WORTH, TEX., June 19, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
 Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 New Senate Office Building,
 Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I have read of the proposal for a Big Thicket National Park and I am very much in favor of it.

I feel strongly that there is a real need for a park in this area, and that the Big Thicket, because of its unique nature, would be very suitable. I feel, too, that it would be the kind of park that would be of interest to a great number of people both in Texas and throughout the nation—everyone from the naturalists and botanists, to those of us who just like to get out and enjoy the beauty of an unusual area.

However, I also feel that in order to have an effective park in this area it must include as large an area as possible. I agree with the citizens' proposal that 100,000 acres is the minimum that should be set aside, in order that the park would include and preserve the great variety of life, plants, and terrain that is the Big Thicket.

Please have my letter read into the minutes of your hearing.

Thank you,

HARRY R. EVANS.

LUFKIN, TEX., June 19, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Committee on
 Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: We are very much opposed to S. 4 introduced by Senator Yarborough providing for a Big Thicket National Park of 100,000 acres or more. We believe the federal government already owns too much land, that a park in this particular area is not needed and that the best interests of the local communities involved and the nation will be better served by the private ownership of this land.

We would like to have this letter made a part of the official record.

Yours very truly,

Miss EVELYN PENN.
 Mrs. E. E. PENN.
 E. E. PENN.

LUFKIN, TEX., June 18, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Committee on
 Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I would like to respectfully register my opposition to S. 4 introduced by Senator Yarborough calling for a 100,000 acre Big Thicket National Park. I am in favor of a 35,000 acre park as recommended by the National Park Service.

Please make this letter a part of the official record.

Sincerely yours,

S. W. HENDERSON, JR.

NACOGDOCHES, TEX., June 18, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Committee on Interior
 and Insular Affairs, New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I have worked in and around the timberland of East Texas for the past 25 years. I have cruised timber in much of the area that is quite loosely called the "Big Thicket" and I have followed with interest the controversy over establishing a park in this area.

I am very much opposed to the proposition of establishing parks as such of any large acreage. I am convinced that most of the proponents of such a park are either scientists, such as botanists, zoologists, etc., or people who have just observed the so-called "big thicket" from the roadside. The general public would not use a vast acreage because of the heat, mosquitos and ticks. I have been there and know.

I am sure there are some naturalists that "wade" these "thickets" purely for the love of their science. I have been in some of the so-called "String of Pearls" that I understand the park service recommended some time back. This 35,000 acres should be sufficient to satisfy the naturalists and protect some of the wondrous things they say are there. There is some doubt in my mind that we even need these acreages set aside because a goodly portion has been cut by the timber industry from one to three times already and has not apparently effected the areas to the extent that these wonders have been eliminated.

Please make this a part of the official record as related to official hearing held in Texas on June 12th.

Very truly yours,

MARVIN G. ANGLE.

SAN MARCOS, TEX., June 20, 1970.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 U.S. Senate,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: My family and I wish to be recorded in favor of the establishment of The Big Thicket National Park.

Much is being said these days about improving the *quality* of American life.

One of the greatest experiences of our lives was to roam the quiet trails of Big Bend and to gaze out over the wild beauty of that rugged land—these things have restorative powers for the human spirit.

Big Thicket is the East Texas counterpart of Big Bend, and it should be preserved.

Sincerely,

R. B. HENDERSON AND FAMILY.

ANSON, TEX., June 19, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: The women of Mesquite District and I (personally) urge you to support S. 4, the Big Thicket bill for the preservation of an outstanding wilderness area for future generations. Thank you for your cooperation on this vital issue.

At the GFWC convention in San Antonio, the resolution on Wilderness was passed on June 10th, saying that our international organization actively supports all measures to preserve wilderness areas of the world. The BIG THICKET is a Texas WILDERNESS!

Sincerely,

Mrs. A. J. SMITH, JR.

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,
Austin, June 19, 1970,

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I would very much like to go on record in support of the proposed Big Thicket National Park. We must act to save our nation's natural beauty which is all too rapidly disappearing. Preservation of the Big Thicket is essential to science, conservation and ecology in this area. Senator Yarborough's proposals for this preservation are excellent and should be enacted immediately.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A. R. SCHWARTZ, *State Senator.*

THE TEXAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS,
Austin, Tex., June 18, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: We are glad that we have another opportunity to express our deep interest in preserving the Big Thicket in East Texas for future generations.

The Big Thicket is an ecologically unique area of the world.

At our international convention in San Antonio earlier this month, the delegates passed a farseeing resolution on Wilderness Areas—vouching their support for measures to preserve these areas everywhere. The Big Thicket is a wilderness and one covered in the resolution.

We think that if it were declared a National Park with an area of 100,000 acres, it could be preserved for future generations. Please support S4.

If further encroachments are made on the Big Thicket, irreparable destruction will be the result. Help us save the Big Thicket!

Thank you from the Texas Federation and from posterity.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. HENRY F. SHAPER.

PASADENA, TEX., June 14, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: I am greatly in favor of the proposed Big Thicket National Park and hope it is established as quickly as possible in order to prevent further "depredation" of the area.

I hope that "wilderness" or primitive areas are established in the park that are accessible only by foot, horse or *manually powered* boats and/or canoes; not automobiles or powered watercraft.

Please enter this letter into the official senate hearing record.

Yours very truly,

JAMES H. MOSER.

MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION,
 Missoula, Mont., June 16, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I wish to express support for the proposed Big Thicket National Park.

We cannot conceal the evidence of man's greed nor turn back the pages of history to recreate the once luxuriant forests and wildlife, but we can protect the remnants for future generations to observe.

Please make my letter a part of the hearing record.

Sincerely,

DONALD ALDRICH,
 Executive Secretary.

PASADENA, TEX., June 13, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Being interested in conservation, and a member of the Boy Scouts of America, I would like to enter my request in favor of a Big Thicket National Park. Such a park would protect endangered species of plants and wildlife, and provide a suitable place for scouts to camp.

So little of the Big Thicket is left, that if something is not done, it will be gone entirely.

Please enter my plea in the record.

Sincerely,

JOHN HUNT.

SILVER CITY, N. MEX., June 16, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
 New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am deeply interested in the establishment of the proposed Big Thicket National Park, and therefore am especially hopeful for the passage of S. 4, Senator Ralph Yarborough's bill to establish a Big Thicket National Park of at least 100,000 acres in East Texas, of the Big Thicket area which once stretched over 3.5 million acres.

The proposed Big Thicket National Park area is very important and valuable in providing a variety of habitat for great diversity of plant life and wildlife. The luxuriant forest comprises many species, some overlapping in reaching the limits of their ranges from other areas.

In view of the continuing relentless progressive take-over of remaining areas of the West by so-called civilization, with exploitation, industrialization, urbanization, and the pressures of increasing population on our limited land frontiers, I am therefore especially interested in the establishment, retention, and preservation of suitable natural areas wherein the pristine plant and animal life may thus be permitted to prevail unmarred by human encroachments or

development. For man should not take precedence everywhere, but should take steps to set aside a generous and needed percent of suitable areas wherein nature may reign supreme.

People are now realizing this great need, as is indicated by the citizens' proposal for the Big Thicket National Park, which is also endorsed by some 60 interested organizations in Texas and elsewhere.

There is need for quick action on this proposal; for logging, clearing, and agriculture are rapidly shrinking this last remnant of the forest—at a rate of perhaps 50 acres a day.

The primary purpose of this proposed national park is to preserve and protect a sample of this unique and distinctive segment of America's past, and to conserve the area's ecological integrity. There is also appropriate provision in the park plans for public education and enjoyment.

Since Senate Bill, S. 4, offers an opportunity to establish an unusual national park area of high quality, I therefore urge its passage, and also for Congress to enact all further legislation to establish the Big Thicket National Park.

Please include this letter in the hearing record.

Respectfully yours,

W. B. MILLER.

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING,
Oak Ridge, Tenn., June 16, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Please make the following statement part of the official record of the public hearings on the proposed Big Thicket National Park:

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, a statewide organization dedicated to the care of Tennessee's natural environment, occasionally takes a stand on national issues if these are considered of great enough significance. We consider creation of Big Thicket National Park to be such an issue.

The Park proposal encompasses an area of unique ecological significance which will almost certainly be lost if not protected soon. The extraordinary richness and diversity of plant life found in the Big Thicket (eight plant communities in one area) are almost unrivaled anywhere.

The Park plan proposed by citizen conservation groups is an unusual one in that it is based on a web of streams. It will preserve the ecologically valuable areas without disturbing existing human communities. At the same time, it will provide opportunities for placid floating and hiking through this botanical wonderland.

We endorse creation of this National Park.

Sincerely yours,

LIANE B. RUSSELL (Mrs. W. L.),
President.

STEPHENVILLE, TEX., June 13, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The membership of the Stephenville Sportsman's Club of Stephenville, Texas, would like to encourage your committee to create and develop the proposed Big Thicket National Park. As a group of avid fishermen and hunters, we are well aware of the danger that our nation's wildlife population is in. We feel that the creation of the Big Thicket National Park would help to preserve not only some of our nation's wildlife, but also the beauty of a natural wilderness area. We therefore wholeheartedly endorse the creation of the Big Thicket National Park.

Sincerely,

BILL BRIDGES,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Stephenville Sportsman's Club.

THE AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D.C., June 9, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: With your permission, The American Forestry Association would like to offer some comments about the proposed Big Thicket National Recreation Area.

Officials of our Association have examined the Big Thicket on several occasions during the past decade. Although most of the region was burned shortly after the logging that took place some 50 years or more ago, good fire protection during the last three decades has resulted in a fine young stand of timber now.

A few small tracts, aggregating about 35,000 acres and scattered throughout the Big Thicket escaped the initial logging and subsequent fires. These remnants, referred to locally as the String of Pearls, are excellent examples of a distinctive forest type known as loblolly pine-hardwood.

It would be helpful to scientists, naturalists, biologists and others if the 35,000 acres in the String of Pearls could be reserved in the present condition of natural growth. This might be done by establishing a wildlife refuge or a national monument.

Others have suggested that a much larger acreage be designated as a national park. It also has been suggested that such a national park be established by exchanging Federal land in the Texas National Forests for private land in the Big Thicket.

We would not be receptive to either of these ideas.

The second growth, flat-land forests in the Big Thicket are not of national park caliber. To so designate them would downgrade the National Park System.

Exchanging land previously dedicated to multiple-use purposes for private land, i.e., payment-in-kind, became a feature of the Redwood National Park legislation although many conservationists objected to it. Subsequent developments have strengthened these objections.

It is recommended therefore that public efforts to protect natural areas in the Big Thicket be confined to the 35,000 acres identified as the String of Pearls.

Sincerely yours,

KENNETH B. POMEROY,
Chief Forester.

SOUTHERN FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION,
New Orleans, La., June 5, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The Southern Forest Products Association is dedicated to forest management practices which assure maximum benefits for all users—including recreation and the preservation of wildlife, soil, water and scenic attractions as well as adequate timber supplies for housing and other necessities of life. Therefore, the Association favors the creation of a Big Thicket National Monument as proposed in Congressmen John Dowdy and Earle Cabell's bill, H.R. 14391, calling for a "String of Pearls" concept embracing 35,000 acres.

The "String of Pearls" proposal was first advanced in a study released in 1968 by the National Park Service of the Interior Department and called for nine separate units in Liberty, Polk, Hardin, Tyler and Jasper Counties.

The Park Service proposed a series of parks located in various parts of the Big Thicket region—rather than a single large one—because "... in this manner, essential features of a national monument can be encompassed within a fraction of the land which would otherwise be required in a unit large enough to include them all". Continuing, the Park Service study stresses the "... further advantage of distributing the economic benefits from tourism to all sections of the area involved".

This study indicates that sound judgment can be made now as to the size of the proposed preserve and locations which will maintain unique characteristics of the Big Thicket.

Most of the Big Thicket region in East Texas is privately owned and managed

under various conservation programs. Any proposal to acquire privately owned lands should not involve sacrifice of local ad valorem taxes. Land already owned by the federal government should definitely be considered in park planning. Their use and development should be of first priority.

Our Association is opposed to the alternative proposal of Senator Yarborough, S.B. 4, because it would deny economic benefits and thus jeopardize the attainment of ecological objectives. Thousands of persons in East Texas who depend upon the timber industry might be deprived of their livelihoods if this measure is passed.

We believe that the "String of Pearls" concept of several smaller Big Thicket parks will protect the Big Thicket forest species for future generations and still leave some natural resources for continuation of local jobs today. The "String of Pearls" concept will provide maximum benefit to the most number of people. Therefore, we believe it to be best in the public interest.

We hereby register our support in favor of H.R. 14391 and our opposition to S. 4. Thank you very much.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE K. ELIADES,
Director, Forestry and Environmental Affairs.

WEST SUBURBAN HUMANIST SOCIETY,
Lomard, Ill., June 11, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Interior Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: Please enter into the Senate Hearing Records, our approval of S. 4, the bill by Sen. Ralph Yarborough to create the Big Thicket National Park in Texas.

We believe this effort is long overdue by the Congress of the United States. We are being asked to save only 100,000 acres of a once magnificent area of well over 3 and one-half million acres.

Congress has done far too little to save the American environment. Many speeches were made on Earth Day, April 22, 1970 about saving some of the natural landscape of America. Congress has a great opportunity in this bill to save a tiny portion of a once vast area, that has been almost destroyed by the exploiters.

We are delighted to learn that only three years ago, Ivory Billed Woodpeckers were sighted here. They were once thought extinct. If we could save the American Bison, surely we can try to save the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker.

We are disturbed to find that some exploiters are deliberately trying to frustrate efforts to save this area. We urge that Congress act with utmost speed to pass S. 4. Let's do it this year.

Very truly,

Mrs. I. L. MOSTEK,
Chairman, Social Action Committee.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS,
New York, N.Y., June 8, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee of Parks and Recreation, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: For the forthcoming field hearings on S. 4, a bill to establish Big Thicket National Park in southeastern Texas, I wish to lend my support to this proposition. The proposed area contains unique habitats and specialized fauna and flora of the United States. For these reasons alone I would urge that this bill be passed, but also you are well aware of the fast diminishing natural areas of these United States and it is most important that we, at this time, make for utilization by the public.

The establishment of the National Park in Texas would certainly assist in protecting the unique area from future exploitation and destruction as well as providing another of the marvelous and interesting habitats of the United States for utilization by the public.

In only the relatively few years of this century we have not done extremely well by our environment, not only destroying areas but also polluting them. I feel that we have an obligation to, at the very least, leave our land in as good or better shape than we received it, and the protection of the Big Thicket area of southeastern Texas would be one that we could readily maintain.

Therefore I sincerely hope that your committee will find for the recommendation of S. 4 to establish Big Thicket National Park.

Yours very truly,

RICHARD G. VAN GELDER.

OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB OF HOUSTON,
Beaumont, Tex., June 8, 1970.

To the Honorable Senator ALAN BIBLE.

SIR: The Conservation Committee of the Outdoor Nature Club of Houston, Texas, founded in 1923, and now consisting of over five hundred members, has been interested in studying the Big Thicket from the initial efforts in the twenties to preserve some of the area. We would like to present the following statements for the record endorsing Senate bill 4:

(1) The establishment of a Big Thicket National Park or Monument of approximately 100,000 acres would be a National project near centers of population in a large state.

(2) The establishment would result in preserving remnants of differing ecological units and should be connected by scenic easements in a coordinated manner. If these areas are eliminated either by lack of effort or ignorance, they cannot be replaced. It will add to the deterioration of the mental and physical environment of eastern Texas, and indeed the State and Nation will suffer due to the loss of more natural areas. It is said that fifty acres a day of Big Thicket habitat is disappearing due to loss of ecological balance resulting from drainage, logging, overdevelopment and arson.

(3) The establishment of a National area here can be accomplished without economic injury to the region generally, and in fact, would enhance the over-all economy by providing a diversified, constant, evenly-distributed source of income from visitors and related services.

CONCLUSION

The Outdoor Nature Club of Houston repeats its 1968 endorsement of the Big Thicket bill, Senate No. 4, and urges the coordination and cooperation of local, State and national governmental agencies toward the end that approximately 100,000 acres be set aside soon due to urgency caused by increases in value of land in conjunction with pressures resulting from a rising population.

Submitted by the Conservation Committee.

Mrs. RAYMOND H. McDAVID.
C. B. GILMAN.
J. C. FARIS.
FORREST DANIELLS.
RAYMOND H. McDAVID,
Conservation Vice-President.

CLEARWATER, FLA., *June 8, 1970.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

Dear SENATOR BIBLE: I would like to go on record as supporting the citizen's proposal for the Big Thicket National Park, and the minimum of 100,000 acres to make it a workable plan with the necessary unity.

It is seldom that such a diversity of plant life can be found in one area, and it is surely worthwhile to preserve such a unique milieu. Ecological, esthetic and recreational values are all involved, and all are being too rapidly destroyed by logging and agricultural interests.

If Big Thicket can be placed in the national park system, another small part of our diminishing national heritage can be saved. Please use your influence to this end.

Yours very truly,

JEAN S. SMITH.

WACO, TEX., June 7, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: "For the record of the Hearing on the Big Thicket Park Proposal"

Please support the Big Thicket Bill which was first introduced by Senator Yarborough. It is very important that we have a national park of at least 100,000 acres.

LILLIAN M. BROWN.

GREEN BAY, WIS., June 8, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Please enter into the record that SOSAC, Inc. favors the establishment of the proposed Big Thicket National Park, as part of our policy of protecting minority species of plants and animals.

Big Thicket is a last sanctuary for many such species.

Sincerely,

JEROME O. GANDT, D.D.S.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA,
New York, N.Y., June 10, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, Senate Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Thank you for alerting us that field hearings are to be held on June 12th on S. 4.

The Conservation Committee of The Garden Club of America, a national organization with member clubs from coast to coast and in Hawaii, would like to go on record in favor of the establishment of the Big Thicket National Park in Texas.

We regret that we cannot be present, in person, to encourage your committee to act favorably on S. 4, Senator Yarborough's bill, which is a positive step toward the preservation of a beautiful and unique area of Texas. We feel that 100,000 acres of the original 3.5 million acre Big Thicket is but a small acreage of a luxuriant forest that must be saved.

Our committee has long been interested in the establishment of National Parks and Monuments. We are particularly concerned in maintaining the rare, natural areas and habitats that are only found in the Big Thicket. We were pleased to realize, three years ago, that the ivory billed woodpecker had been seen within the Big Thicket.

Today, when so much of our open space is being lost to industry, highways and residential development, it is important that we create more National Parks for the diverse recreational uses that the public needs.

We trust that your committee will act favorably on S. 4, establishing a Big Thicket National Park, so that Congress may complete action on it at this session.

Sincerely,

Mrs. DANIEL M. MCKEON,
Legislation Chairman.

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ., June 9, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I favor a significant Big Thicket National Park of approximately 100,000 acres utilizing the continuity of the Neches River system, according to the plan supported by interested conservation organizations. Preservation of the river and tributary waterways would be extremely beneficial and their compatible uses would provide unique experiences for visitors.

The report of a sighting of the ivory billed woodpecker in this region illustrates its value as habitat for rare animal and plant life. If, for no other reason, the proposed park would be justified as sanctuary for this species presumed to be extinct prior to this discovery. However, other reasons for the park's existence abound.

The type area involved would constitute a varied and fascinating Park, quite different from land and water types protected in existing units of the National Park System.

Respectfully submitted,

EILEEN M. MANDERFIELD.

JASPER, TEX., June 8, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: This concerns hearings on the Big Thicket National Park that are to be held in mid-June in Beaumont.

Already in the State of Texas there are large areas owned by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service that are available for use by the general public for recreational purposes and for naturalists.

Large tracts of lands that would be taken by the federal government for a 100,000 to 200,000 acre national park supports productive, maintained forests that are necessary to fulfill the nation's increasing needs for forest products. These lands, provided that they are left in the hands of private ownership, will continue to help supply those ever growing needs.

The "String of Pearls" concept proposed by others (including the National Park Service) would fill all of the needs of naturalists who desire such a park.

The cost of the 35,500 acre "String of Pearls" parks would be far less of a burden to our national economy than the grossly expensive larger national park.

I will appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Truly yours,

T. S. HUGHES.

DALLAS, TEX., June 10, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Mrs. Hull and I would like very much to go on record as favoring the retention of Big Thicket as National Park.

We think it would be a great error to let this beautiful section of Texas go and not do something about preserving it for the future generations to see and love as we do.

Please do everything you possibly can to see that this bill is passed and that this area becomes the Big Thicket National Park. Too many beautiful areas of this United States is being consumed by man that should not be. Let's preserve this and other types like it for the beauty that lies in this country.

Yours very truly,

L. E. HULL.

SILSBEE, TEX., June 9, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U.S. Senate, Wash-
ington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: This in reference to the hearings on the "Big Thicket National Park" to be held in Beaumont, Texas on June 12 and 13, 1970.

The very concept of such a huge federal take-over of privately owned productive timber lands is difficult to digest.

The enormous sums of taxpayers' money that would be required for the acquisition and subsequent administration of 100,000 to 200,000 acres of these lands could well be utilized for numerous other and extremely more demanding national priorities.

This expenditure would serve only a minute minority of the national taxpayers and would only partially be enjoyed by those who would practice conserva-

tion, for the sake of conservation. When conservation means the wise use of our natural resources, then the establishment of such a large park would not fit the definition and would be a gross injustice to the people at large.

It seems that the smaller 35,500 acre "String of Pearls" park would "preserve" more of the Big Thicket than the parks proponents could hope to enjoy. Since the competent professionals of the National Park Service enclose the "String of Pearls", their proposal should be given due consideration.

Very truly yours,

W. H. ROGERS, JR.

NORTH AMERICAN HABITAT PRESERVATION SOCIETY,
Adelphi, Md., June 11, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Our organization, the North American Habitat Preservation Society, is two years old and has a national membership of approximately 14,000. The Society was the first organized group in the country to set up plans for establishing a Business-Environmental Research Center. Although the formal organization is only two years old, plans for such a center were laid down three and one-half years ago, long before the environmental issue came into vogue. We are also the first conservation organization in this country that owns a private business enterprise from which we derive the funds for operation. The enterprise of which I speak is a printing and composition company.

I have given the above brief introduction only as a means of showing that we are not historically opposed to business. We are, however, finding that our country, the United States, is in serious ecological trouble and it is becoming apparent that a lot of talking and very little concrete action is being undertaken to mitigate our despoiling trend. More than ever we need ecological research but as we do not have the research available, we must now buy time, so to speak, by enforcing regulations we do have and creating more open space so that when the real needs of humans as a part of the biological net is finally determined, we will not find that we have squandered away our biological backbone.

Our Society has extensively reviewed all the information available on the Big Thicket Area of Texas. It is regrettable that so much of this luxuriant diamond has been needlessly destroyed. After a meeting of our Board of Advisors we would like to formally ask that the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, of which you are chairman, adopt and promote Senate Bill No. 4 that calls for the establishment of a Big Thicket National Park comprised of *at least* 100,000 acres in East Texas. Thanking you for your time and trusting that your committee will act favorably on this bill, I remain,

Your most obedient servant,

R. DOYLE GRABARCK,
President, Executive Administrative Board.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., June 12, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I would like to have my letter added to the hearing record on the Big Thicket National Park proposal.

It is inconceivable to me that there could be any objection what-so-ever to the preservation of such a spot. Not only is its historical value of interest, but its ecological and biological contributions are so great. Nowhere in North America can a grouping and overlapping of such diverse geographic ranges be found. The Big Thicket is truly a unique physical phenomenon. Its richness and diversity in plant and animal life are of as equal in importance as the physical features.

The Big Thicket once covered over 3.5 million acres. To me it is quite sad that even the protection of a few thousand acres or so must be fought for. What a tremendous loss and waste to the enrichment of our lives if we were to have

to give up the Big Thicket area to a greedy few, who obviously have no interest in the world around them.

Sincerely,

MARY FENSTERMAKER.

FARGO, N. DAK., June 11, 1970.

Re Big Ticket National Park hearings.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Please include this letter in your hearing record. The North Dakota Chapter of the Wilderness Society heartily supports the findings and recommendations of over 60 conservation and ecology organizations in support of the proposed Big Thicket National Park.

This unique area should be a prize preserved for the people of the nation as well as for the people of the State of Texas. It is hoped that other letters such as this one will significantly influence the Senate Committee to look upon the Big Thicket proposal favorably.

Sincerely,

GEORGE JOHNSON, M.D.

PITTSBURGH CLIMBERS,
Pittsburgh, Pa., June 10, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Please include the following paragraphs as a part of the hearing of the proposed Big Thicket National Park to be held in Beaumont, Texas, on June 12, 1970.

The Pittsburgh Climbers are an organization of climbers, hikers, wilderness enthusiasts and canoeists. We have been pleased that many of this country's most beautiful mountain areas have been preserved by the system of National Parks and National Forests. We are delighted that some of them are being designated as wilderness and hope that more will be so designated.

The Big Thicket Proposal, however, is something very different; an attempt to preserve a biological wonderland, not because it happens to exist in conjunction with great mountains, cliffs or gorges, but *for its ecology*. Until recently we have taken far too little notice of our marshes and our streams in the less mountainous portions of the country. We have, therefore, very few such areas preserved for the public and for the future.

The Pittsburgh Climbers, therefore would like to go on record as supporting the Big Thicket National Park Proposal.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs.) GERTRUDE C. GAZDIK,
Secretary-Treasurer.

SHERMAN, TEX., June 14, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: Please enter my following views in the Big Thicket Park (S4) Senate Hearing.

I am writing as a graduate biologist and a licensed Texas Real Estate Broker for the preservation of at least 100,000 acres of the Big Thicket in fee simple with additional hiking and canoeing public easements and the region as a whole zoned to prohibit permanent destruction of the forests.

From my experiences of hiking, studying and canoeing through said area, I am totally convinced that the preservation of the region is for the best interest of the region, State and Nation. Hunting and lumbering should still be permitted in the region outside of the fee simple area using sound conservation practices. The lumber companies should be encouraged to develop camping areas near the

Park so they can realize greater return from their lands while permitting the Park to remain in a natural state.

The unique ecological aspects of the Big Thicket along with the absolute necessity of natural areas to thwart off social and emotional disorders easily justifies the real estate investment.

Natural laws work for the wise man, finally destroys he who disregards them.
For better man and nature relations, I am,

Yours truly,

RODNEY A. RYLANDER.

TEXAS TOURIST COUNCIL,
Austin, Tex., June 15, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Senator, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: Senator Yarborough's letter notifying us of the Big Thicket hearing in Beaumont, arrived while I was on an extended business trip so we were unable to appear last Friday. We do want to have included in the hearing records an indication of our support.

The Texas Tourist Council represents approximately 15,000 members in the area of tourist development for our state. We have gone on record as supporting the great desirability of having designated as a national park a section of our unique and beautiful Big Thicket area.

Sincerely,

DON EPPERSON,
Executive Director.

PHOENIX, ARIZ., June 11, 1970.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Interior Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Beaumont, Tex.

GENTLEMEN: I wish this letter to be made a part of the hearing record regarding the proposed Big Thicket National Park.

I am very much in favor of this National Park and urge that your efforts be directed to this fulfillment.

The luxuriant forest of Big Thicket has been well described as the "biological crossroads of North America."

Logging, clearing, and agriculture are rapidly shrinking even the remnant of this forest—at a rate of perhaps 50 acres a day. The purpose of the proposed national park is to preserve and protect a sample of this distinctive segment of America's past. Conserving the area's ecological integrity is the vital need. But appropriate provision in the park plans can also be made for public education and enjoyment.

Float trips down the placid streams and foot and horse expeditions on trails wandering along the banks and through the wooded countryside will provide the most satisfying means of enjoying this natural wonderland. With the dispersed pattern of the proposed park, automobile access will be convenient at many points without direct intrusion on the waterways and forest lands.

I wish that I could attend this hearing in person and that I could significantly influence what the Senate committee decides about the Big Thicket National Park proposal.

Sincerely yours,

ELAINE MAYER,
(Mrs. Otto S.)

HOUSTON, TEX., June 13, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Since I was unable to attend the public hearing in Beaumont on June 12, regarding the placement of the Big Thicket in the national park system, I am asking you to please include this letter in the hearing record. I understand it will be open for letters until June 22.

I am writing as a private citizen and city dweller to endorse Senator Ralph Yarborough's bill to establish a Big Thicket National Park of at least 100,000

acres. The smaller area of 35,000 acres, as proposed by the lumber industry is entirely too small to accommodate both the needs of conservationists and those of standard tourist recreations.

Living in the smog covered, noisy, crowded environment of a big city, something we have the audacity to call "civilization" and "progress", we city dwellers are perhaps especially aware of the necessity of preserving what little wilderness there is left in our shrinking world. Too much of our country (and the rest of the world) has already been destroyed in the name of our gods of Free Enterprise, Development, Commodity Resources, Improvement, etc. Short term gain for the few has been our criterion for much too long already. We need to preserve every acre of wilderness still left for it can never be legislated back into existence once it has been destroyed.

To one who has had the good fortune to see a fair amount of the world and who therefore has some basis for making comparisons, the preservation of this magnificent Big Thicket forest, this "biological crossroads of North America", appears to be an undeniable must.

It is high time we start putting the needs of the people over those of industry. Let us return to being a government of, by and for the people. We have had government of, by and for industry long enough.

Sincerely,

Mrs. B. E. SKIPPER.

MAGNOLIA GARDEN CLUB,
Beaumont, Tex., June 12, 1970.

The Magnolia Garden Club endorses the statement of the Texas Committee of Natural Resources, and supports Senator Yarborough's Senate Bill No. 4 for a minimum 100,000 acre Big Thicket National Park.

However, we would like to have the area more defined. Instead of the unstrung pearls, we would like to see the sites linked by environmental corridors. We would recommend using existing roads with no more paving in the area than is absolutely necessary. We hope that an unusual national park will be based on the web formed by the Neches River and its tributary streams that flow through the Big Thicket country. The proposal envisions a park area varying from one to two miles wide extending along each of the streams, together with additional areas (including one of 64,000 acres) which would connect the several streamways. There would be a physical and esthetic unity to the plan.

Existing communities scattered within the Big Thicket, established public roads, and heavy recent logging preclude the possibility of a single, large, continuous area for the park. However, the creeks and the Neches River, the marshes with their luxuriant plant growth, and the stands of mature forest remaining on the uplands in combination offer an opportunity to establish a national park area of high quality.

This park pattern promises suitable access. Float trips down the placid streams and foot and horse expeditions of trails wandering along the banks and through the wooded countryside will provide the most satisfying means of enjoying this natural wonderland. With the dispersed pattern of the proposed park, automobile access will be convenient at many points without direct intrusion on the waterways and forest lands. This is graphically shown on the enclosed proposed Big Thicket National Park Map reprinted from the Wilderness Society bulletin June 5, 1970.

MARY E. SEEWALD,
Conservation Chairman.

NACOGDOCHES, TEX., June 24, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I've been reading in the newspapers where you held a hearing at Beaumont, Texas, on the desirability of Big Thicket Park with 100 or more thousand acres.

From the way the news writes about your meeting, it sounded as though everyone except the Timber industry wants a great big acreage tied up.

Well, I for one don't. The idea sounds crazy to me. Does the Government use my tax money for such an idea that would really only benefit a few people like bird watchers? If the money just has to be spent, let it be for more places around some of our lakes where we town people can enjoy a day in the open.

Whose ever idea it was to set aside 35,000 acres sounds to me to be sufficient for anyone that might want to get out and rough it.
If you have a place to record my vote, please do so.

SHIRLEY WILLS.

HOUSTON, TEX., June 3, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: This letter is for the Record of the Hearing on the Big Thicket Park proposal. I want to go on record as agreeing with the National Park plan which would include at least 100,000 acres. Each day we delay in preserving this marvelous area is a loss to the future generations in a great heritage: the forests, swamps, and rivers which are the homelands of animals, outstanding plant life, and many kinds of birds. Only as a national park can this area be protected and preserved for future generations and as a national park could soon be more enjoyable for visits of our generation.

Thank you,

Mrs. JACK ARNALL.

BURNET, TEX., June 9, 1970.

Hon. ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Parks and Recreation Subcommittee, Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: It had been my intention to make personal appearance before you on Friday, June 12, but court settings precluded this.

Please permit me to add my support to all that is presented in this hearing in support of preservation of 100,000 or more acres of the Texas Big Thicket as park area. The dwindling of our open, natural areas, in my opinion, make such preservation at this time imperative, for the benefit of this and all future generations.

May I suggest that all exploitation of the present area of the Big Thicket be immediately enjoined, leaving this already sadly depleted national asset as it is until final decisions are made by the highest authorities.

Respectfully submitted,

E. B. KINSEY.

TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC.,
Denton, Tex., June 4, 1970.

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: This is for the Record of the Hearings on the Big Thicket Park Bill to be held on Friday, June 12, 1970.

I do endorse wholeheartedly Senator Yarborough's bill for a Big Thicket National Park. I am in favor of the "Environmental Conservation Area" plan to enclose the proposed nine units (the "pearls"), with roads and streams within the Area protected by scenic easements.

I am in favor also of the establishment of wildlife refuges (and mass recreation areas outside the Conservation Area) in order that the preservation and protection of this unique natural area can be accomplished.

After careful study of the proposed plan, I believe that at least 100,000 acres will be necessary for its achievement.

Sincerely,

Mrs. RUSSELL VERNON,
Director.

RESOLUTION—TRAVIS AUDUBON SOCIETY, AUSTIN, TEXAS

Whereas, hearings will be held by Senator Alan Bible, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, in Beaumont, Texas, on June 12, 1970; and

Whereas, the purpose of this hearing will be to hear testimony and statements for the establishment of a National Park in the Big Thicket of East Texas; and
Whereas, the Big Thicket of Texas is a unique botanical and historical area of the world; and

Whereas, the Big Thicket area of Texas is being reduced daily by lumbering, real estate development, water impoundments, etc.; and

Whereas, the Big Thicket natural areas should be preserved for all mankind for all generations to come: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That Travis Audubon Society through its Board of Directors hereby urgently recommends to the above Subcommittee that a National Park of at least 100,000 acres, and more if possible, as proposed in S. 4, by Senator Ralph W. Yarborough, be established at the earliest possible date.

Resolution approved this 7th day of June, 1970, by the Board of Directors, Travis Audubon Society.

BARBARA A. RIBBLE, *Secretary*.

NACOGDOCHES, TEX., *May 28, 1970.*

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
*Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am writing with regard to the hearing in Beaumont, Texas, scheduled for June 12, 1970, concerning the "Big Thicket."

My opinions and deep concern over this issue have evolved over long association (nearly 20 years) with the people, economy and ecology of the "Thicket." The area is aptly named; in fact, this description may be considered the understatement of the year by the uninitiated tourist who wanders into one of our "baygalls" and becomes mired down amid swarming mosquitoes and slithering water moccasins.

In all seriousness, Senator, I firmly believe the "Thicket" lacks the broad, universal appeal to justify national recognition, either in the form of a "string of pearls" monument or a larger park-size venture.

I have visited many national parks and national forest recreation areas, and each has a feature, or features, that appeals to the masses, usually in the form of spectacular scenery or water-oriented recreation. The "Big Thicket" has neither, and therefore does not warrant reservation of large acreages just for the limited use by an occasional naturalist or preservationist.

Here in East Texas we have several large, young reservoirs already supporting tremendous tourist use plus the long-held Forest Service lands in addition to vast individual open lands which when properly developed will provide ample nature study and recreation areas.

I would suggest that you and your committee consider the minimal public use a "Big Thicket" reservation would provide, as opposed to the great potential we have for further developing lands already held by public agencies.

Yours very truly,

JAMES G. PARKS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS,
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AT HOUSTON,
July 21, 1970.

HON. ALAN BIBLE,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: I am enclosing for your consideration a brief petition in support of Senator Ralph Yarborough's proposal S. 4 for the establishment of the Big Thicket National Park. I sincerely hope that favorable action on this bill will move forward without delay.

Cordially yours,

J. P. KENNEDY, Ph. D.,
Professor and Chairman, Department of Animal Ecology.

(The above communication is representative of many letters and thousands of signatures obtained to a petition entitled "People's Petition to Save the Big Thicket." The signed petitions are in the Committee files.)

Senator ALAN BIBLE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR BIBLE: The undersigned urge you press for the preservation of the remainder of the Big Thicket as a National Park. Too much of this land has already been ruined by the irresponsible and avaricious actions of the oil and lumber industry. No industry has the right to despoil the environment in the way the Big Thicket has been despoiled.

We support Senator Yarborough that *at least* 100,000 acres of this area should be preserved as a National Park and that the parts of the park should be linked by environmental corridors in order to preserve the ecology of the Big Thicket.
(The above petition was signed by 24 graduate students of the University of Texas.)

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