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Resolution 1926-06-11 Migratory Bird Refuge Bill

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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In view of the indicated willingness of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation to apply this or a similar plan to an expanded program to include all phases of outdoor life through the various organizations constituting its member bodies, Resolved,

That this organization lend its assistance and co-operation to the National Conference in its efforts to attain the larger objective, rather than to attempt an independent movement embracing wild animal life only.

Tariff on Game Birds.

This Association wishes to record its vigorous protest against that unjust and unreasonable provision of the existing National Tariff Act which requires the payment of a duty on game birds imported for stocking purposes by state game commissioners for the benefit of the public, and

The officers of the Association are hereby empowered and directed to use all proper means through the President of the United States, The United States Tariff Commission, and Congress as may be necessary to secure such modification of Paragraph No. 711 of the Tariff Act as will permit the importation of game birds for stocking purposes free of duty.

Also that every effort be made by said officers on behalf of this Association to secure a refund of such sums as have been paid the Government in duties by the various state game departments.

Conflict of State and Federal Laws.

Since in a number of instances the state laws which give protection to our non-game birds are found to be in conflict with the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Treaty with Canada, therefore,

Be it resolved that this Association go on record as approving state legislation which will automatically bring such statutes into conformity with the Treaty requirements, particularly in view of the fact that where any migratory bird protected thereby becomes especially destructive, the Federal regulations provide ample measures for relief.

Education of the Youth.

Realizing that legal enactments and law enforcement alone will not solve the problems of wild life conservation, therefore,

Be it resolved that this Association express its hearty endorsement of such sane and well considered efforts as are being made in the way of educating the youth of our land along these lines, particularly by some of the State Game Commissioners and Sportsmen's organizations, and,

Be it further resolved by this Association that it recommend to all our Game Commissions and Sportsmen's organizations the desirability of instituting and carrying forward some well formulated educational program in the interest of wild life conservation.

Migratory Bird Refuge Bill.

It is obvious that the United States, in order to fully meet its obligations in the protection and preservation of migratory wild fowl assumed by International Treaty, and that the Sportsmen of America may continue in the future to enjoy the recreation of waterfowl shooting to some reasonable extent, that all avail-

able areas suitable for the use of waterfowl be permanently safeguarded, therefore,

This Association reaffirms its endorsement of the measure now known as the Federal Migratory Bird Refuge and Marsh Land Conservation Bill and urges its early passage.

The appointment of a representative of this Association by its President to serve with similar representatives of other organizations in promoting the passage of the bill is approved and directed.

Platform of Principles.

The adoption by this Association of a definite platform or code of basic principles of wild life conservation is recognized as necessary to the orderly and sane progress of game administration and legislation in the several states, and it is believed that the time is now ripe for such a step. The President is therefore empowered and directed to appoint a committee of five members whose duty it shall be to formulate and present such a platform at the next annual convention for adoption.

Deceased Members.

Death has entered the ranks of the Association during the past year and removed two of our distinguished and highly respected members.

G. M. Willard.

The Association desires to record its keen sense of loss of the wise counsel and helpful advice of the Hon. G. M. Willard, recently State Game Warden of the State of Arizona who departed this life shortly after taking part in the last annual meeting at Denver, Colorado. The high character of Mr. Willard as a citizen and a public official was universally recognized, and his modest, genial personality and sterling worth impressed themselves on all who were fortunate enough to know him.

John P. Woods.

For many years a familiar and welcome figure at the annual conventions of this Association was that of John P. Woods, of St. Louis, Missouri, a loyal, enthusiastic, earnest member, always ready and abundantly able to assume any obligation laid upon him and to carry the banner of conservation. He was a unique and loveable personality whom many of our members were proud to number among their most valued personal friends and who deeply mourn his departure.

The secretary of this Association is hereby directed to forward to the surviving relatives of Mr. G. M. Willard and Mr. John P. Woods suitable messages of sympathy and condolence.

Appreciation of Courtesies.

The members of the International Association have been placed under lasting obligation to Hon. I. T. Quinn, Commissioner of Game and Fisheries of the State of Alabama, for his tireless and effective efforts in perfecting and executing the excellent arrangements for this convention. He has made good in an abundant measure the assurance given us when his invitation to come to Mobile was accepted last year.

To the Hon. Harry T. Hartwell, Acting Mayor of the city of Mobile, and to Mr. O. M. Phelps, General Manager of the Cham-

ber of Commerce, and to the members of the Mobile Gun Club, the Management of the Battle House, and to the press of the city, acknowledgement is hereby made of their cordial greetings, and for their generous hospitality and for the many courtesies received at their hands and for their efforts to make pleasant and interesting the visit of our members, which the handicap of adverse weather conditions has made all the more apparent, and is the greater appreciated.

President LeCompte: Gentlemen, you have heard the resolutions; what is your pleasure?

Mr. Smith: I move that we consider the resolutions as a whole, with the exception of the Game Refuge Resolution, which should be considered separately. I make that motion for the reason that there are several of us here who are going to vote against the Game Refuge Bill Resolution but who are very anxious to vote for the other resolutions. We would hate to vote against them all en bloc.

Mr. Burnham: May I make a suggestion? We are like a dog chasing its tail. All of us want the Refuge Bill; why should not those who oppose these other propositions in the bill so register their vote?

Mr. Smith: This bill will take \$250,000 a year out of the state of Texas. We have to pay \$7,000,000 a year to the Federal Government; we only get back \$6,000,000, and you ask us to give a quarter of a million more.

Mr. Burnham: All I am suggesting is—

President LeCompte: Gentlemen, the question is on the adoption of these resolutions. What is your pleasure?

Mr. Doze: I think Mr. Burnham's suggestion should be followed in that respect.

President LeCompte: I did not get Mr. Burnham's suggestion.

Mr. Doze: There are none of us here opposed to game refuges, but those states that do not at this time subscribe to the other features of the bill should have the right to enter their protest against those two features. So I say that Mr. Burnham's suggestion should be followed. Personally I do not want to vote against giving game refuges and public shooting grounds to any state, but I consider that the public shooting grounds measure is a matter for the state to take care of, not for the Federal Government.

Mr. Amsler: In order to get the record straight, I move the adoption of the resolutions, other than the resolution pertaining to the Game Refuge Bill. That will enable those who have objections to enter their objection to that particular resolution.

President LeCompte: And your idea is that the resolution with respect to the Game Refuge Bill be reread and separately put?

Mr. Amsler: Yes.

Mr. Doze: I will second the motion.

President LeCompte: The motion has been made and duly second-

ed that the resolutions be adopted as a whole, excepting the resolution pertaining to the Game Refuge Bill.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

President LeCompte: We will now take the Game Refuge Bill resolution. Does someone want to make a motion on that?

Mr. Amsler: I believe we have had a thorough discussion on the bill. I move the adoption of the resolution.

Judge Miles: I second the motion.

Some Delegates: Read the resolution.

The Secretary read the resolution.

Mr. Smith: If that motion is carried, I ask the privilege that on the record of this meeting the state of Texas be shown as against that Game Refuge Bill—

President LeCompte: Unless your state is a member of the International Association I do not think your vote would be effective.

Mr. Smith: We are a member as a state organization, and we want to go on record in that way.

President LeCompte: I just wanted to inform the members present that those who are not members of the Association as state organizations would not be entitled to vote.

Mr. Reeves: I want to make an amendment to Mr. Amsler's motion, and that is that the vote be taken by states, and that any representative of any state who wishes to make an objection verbally shall be allowed to do so and have it entered in the record.

President LeCompte: I think we can take the vote on Yeas and Nays and you gentlemen can record your vote against without each state of the Union being called. Really I do not know what states are represented here and I would have to call the whole of the forty-eight states.

Mr. Amsler: I suggest that if the motion is going to carry, and it undoubtedly is, the records show that the motion did carry with the following states or persons voting against.

President LeCompte: I will call for a standing vote, gentlemen. All in favor please stand.

The following states voted affirmatively:

New York
Indiana
Minnesota
Pennsylvania
Connecticut
Louisiana
Iowa
Arkansas
Kentucky
Virginia
California
Maryland
Alabama
Illinois with reservations

Mr. Hunter: I may point out that the Western Association has endorsed the Game Refuge Bill in a resolution. This Association includes the nine states west of the Rocky Mountains.

Mr. Smith: May I ask whether those who have voted are individual members, or state members?

President LeCompte: Members of the state. They could not vote otherwise.

Mr. Gordon: Where do the individual members of this Association come in?

Mr. Holland: Associate members do not have a vote.

Mr. Gordon: In view of the comparatively small number of states here represented, an action of this sort is going to be garbled by the enemies of this bill—

Mr. Doze: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. Gordon: —in a way that will be used to defeat the purposes of the sportsmen of the country. Now personally I am not interested because you say I have no vote, but I am interested in doing something for the wild fowl of this country.

President LeCompte: I did not draw these by-laws; I had nothing to do with the drafting of them. If the by-laws provide that only states can vote, then I must submit. Therefore I call for the nays.

The following states voted negatively:

Oklahoma
Texas
Kansas
Missouri
North Dakota

Mr. Reeves: I am not against the Game Refuge Bill, but I am against two features of it—

President LeCompte: That means against. You cannot vote both ways.

Mr. Doze: May I explain the Kansas vote? Kansas is one hundred per cent for the game refuge feature, but at this time we are not in a position to endorse the other two features of the bill. I think that is the position of all those who are compelled to rise and vote in the negative.

Mr. Reeves: I would like the record to show that I am voting against two features of the Game Refuge Bill. I represent the sportsmen of the state of Oklahoma and they are unalterably opposed to the financial side of the bill and the public shooting grounds part of it. I would like to have the record show that.

Mr. Smith: I would like to have it go in the record that Texas is in favor if they take out the Federal game wardens.

Mr. Peterson: My objection is to the Government hunting license feature only; otherwise I am for the bill.

Mr. McCause: I am one of the infant members of the Association, but I want to say that Missouri is for the idea that you are trying to put over, but it is the method of financing we object to. We do not believe it is going to be popular to place this double tax on the hunter.

Mr. Pettis: I do not know whether my status in this organization is such as to entitle me to vote, but I will say that our Associations in Arizona are all backing this bill.

President LeCompte: If you are a member of the International Association you have a right to vote representing your state.

Mr. Pettis: The thing that always appeals to our fellows when I mention this Game Refuge Bill is the fact that half a dozen clubs in Arizona have picked up all the good shooting and the one-gallus man is out of it—he has to stand around the edge of the territories preempted by these clubs and take the stragglers. They are in favor of it in spite of the fact that they are going to have to pay the dollar tax, and in spite of the fact that we may have some Federal game wardens; they say they want this thing to go through.

There is one thing that we have in Arizona that might help Mr. Smith of Texas. We have not any regular Federal game wardens down there, but a lot of the boys in our department carry Federal commissions and we handle that end of it ourselves without any outside interference. In that way we get along very well.

President LeCompte: The result of the vote is 14 for and 5 against; therefore the resolution is adopted. Now we would like, in accordance with a suggestion that has been made, to have a popular vote on the Game Refuge Bill. I do not know whether it can show in the minutes, in view of the fact that the states must be members before their vote is legal. Those in favor of the Game Refuge Bill will please stand.

The vote resulted as follows:

For	29
Against	2

Mr. Smith: In view of the fact that certain remarks have been made as to the reasons why one of our members has been supporting the Game Refuge Bill, I move that this convention go on record as having absolute confidence in the motives of John Burnham, and that we resent any aspersions cast upon him.

The motion was seconded by three different members and carried unanimously by a rising vote.

“The Fur Resources of Louisiana,” by Stanley C. Arthur, Director, Division of Wild Life, Department of Conservation.

The taking of furs for clothing and the trading in pelts is undoubtedly the oldest industry in the world. It goes back many thousands of years into the dim reaches of the Stone Age when the cave man, crude hatchet or club in hand, killed the beasts of the field so that he and his family could have covering during the rigorous seasons of the year and we may be safe in claiming that the Neanderthal Woman was the first