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Resolution 1925-03-04 The Game Refuge Bill

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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duty on imported game birds be reduced fifty per cent, and that a representative of this Association be present at the hearing before the Tariff Commission in Washington, D. C., on September 10th, 1925, at 10 A. M., in support of this resolution.

Mr. Adams: I move the adoption of the resolution.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Dr. Pearson: The next resolution is as follows:

In view of the great economic and spiritual value of song and insectivorous birds to mankind, this Association urges game wardens and commissioners throughout the United States and Canada to devote careful attention to the subject of protecting this class of wild birds to co-operate with such national and state citizens' organizations as may exist for the education of the public on the value of such birds to the country.

On motion of Mr. Burnham, seconded by Dr. Waggoner, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Dr. Pearson: With regard to the Game Refuge Bill, various ideas have been expressed by different men as to the feasibility and as to the wisdom of its various provisions. As is well known here, there has been considerable discussion throughout the country in that connection, especially here in the Northwest, where Mr. Madsen has prepared a special bill which has been brought to your attention. In order to get anything in Washington we must present a united front; we all believe in that. This organization, fortunately, has had a very level-headed and far-seeing president, a gentleman who comes from a neighboring country. This is particularly a domestic problem here, but when he arrived and found that there was more or less sheet-lightning playing around the horizon on this subject, he proceeded to call together officers of this Western Association and the International Association and a few others, with an idea of threshing this thing out and of having all the cards laid on the table. His idea was that we might find out to our satisfaction whether those of opposite views had horns on or not, or whether we were all regular fellows and sincere. These men met for a few hours in a room in the hotel here the other night and prepared a brief statement, as follows:

Denver, Col.
August 19, 1925.

Officers of the Western Association of State Game Commissioners and of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in conference here tonight approve amendments to the Game Refuge Bill offered by Commissioner D. H. Madsen, of Utah, providing for a state representative on the Federal Board to be in charge of the purchase of lands for game refuges, and for raising the funds by the transfer of the existing excise tax on firearms and ammunition in place of the proposed Federal hunting license. They urge the American Game Protective Association to sponsor the amended bill in Congress. Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, expressed his approval of the proposed amendments and those present urge the Izaak Walton League and other organizations and individuals interested, to give the movement their support.

This is what was passed the other night unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the action of the officers of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in con-

ference with the Officers of the Western Association of State Game Commissioners, in accepting in principle the amendments to the Federal Game Refuge Bill offered by Commissioner D. H. Madsen, of Utah, is hereby approved by this Convention;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Western Association of State Game Commissioners, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners; the American Game Protective Association; the National Association of Audubon Societies and the Izaak Walton League, are requested each to appoint one member of a Committee of five for the preparation and the submission to Congress of the bill in accordance with this Resolution.

The Resolutions Committee present to you this statement and resolution for your consideration.

Mr. LeCompte: I move the adoption of the resolution.

Judge Miles: I second the motion.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Adams: I would like, through you, Mr. President, to ask Mr. Dilg a question: whether he will support the resolution for co-operation in regard to the Game Refuge Bill?

Mr. Dilg: I would like to have you, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Pearson, explain definitely and accurately what you expect the Izaak Walton League to do. My mind was a little diverted and I am not specific as to what that contains.

Mr. Kelly: I rise to a point of order. The resolution has been adopted and it very clearly states that the whole matter is to be left to a committee to be appointed in due form, and I submit that the introduction of any matters that might be of a personal nature is out of order. It seems to me that we have a clear course; that we have at least reached something toward which we can work, and any effort to commit any member of any organization to a policy that is certain to bring about future changes or amendments would seem to me to be unwise. I hope that our good questioner will abandon his suggestion.

President Harkin: I agree with Mr. Kelly that it is undesirable to introduce a discussion on this subject, and I would ask Mr. Adams to withdraw his question. Now that it has been decided to have a committee, no good purpose can be served by having a discussion of this kind at this time. We have threshed out the general question, and as I understand it, it is not a question of what Mr. Dilg thinks personally; it is a question of what the Izaak Walton League through its executive shall decide. I think we should proceed with the resolutions.

Dr. Pearson: There is a resolution here which was handed to the committee late, and there has been no opportunity for the Chairman to present it to the whole committee. Considering the nature of it, however, and the source from which it comes, I feel I should present the matter to you. The resolution, which is offered by Mr. Carpenter, is as follows:

WHEREAS, these United States are composed of such "magnificent distances" and there is such a very great diversity of conditions affecting the conservation of the desirable wild life therein, and a very outstanding lack of uniformity in the laws of the various states pertaining to the conservation of said desirable wild life, and

WHEREAS, there has long been and at present is a feeling