

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY  
OF THE  
RECORDS OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON CONSERVATION OF WILD-LIFE RESOURCES  
73rd-79th CONGRESS

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## INTRODUCTION

The Select Committee of the House of Representatives on Conservation of Wild-Life Resources was constituted pursuant to House Resolution 237, 73rd Congress, adopted by the House on January 29, 1934. House Resolution 237, 73rd Congress, introduced by Representative William J. Driver, of Arkansas, provided in part as follows:

Resolved, That a special committee of 15 Representatives, to be composed of the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine, Radio, and Fisheries, the 2 House of Representatives members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, 7 Members of the House of Representatives from the majority political party, and 4 Members of the House of Representatives from the minority political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, is authorized and directed (1) to investigate all matters pertaining to the replacement and conservation of wild animal life (including aquatic and bird life) with a view to determining the most appropriate method of carrying out such purposes; and (2) to report to the House as soon as practicable, but not later than January 3, 1935, the results of its investigations, together with its recommendations for necessary legislation.

On January 30, 1934, the Speaker of the House, acting in accordance with the foregoing resolution, announced the appointment of Messrs. A. Willis Robertson, of Virginia (chairman); Lindsay C. Warren, of North Carolina; Tom D. McKeown, of Oklahoma; Jacob L. Milligan, of California; Frank H. Buck, of California; William M. Berlin, of Pennsylvania; Albert C. Willford, of Iowa; Albert E. Carter, of California; Frank H. Foss, of Massachusetts; Charles D. Millard, of New York; and George W. Blanchard, of Wisconsin as members of the special committee, to join the other members designated in the resolution. There were subsequent changes in the membership of the committee, but Representative A. Willis Robertson, of Virginia, served as chairman as long as the committee was in existence.

The committee was empowered to continue the investigation begun in the Seventy-third Congress through six succeeding Congresses by virtue of the following House resolutions: H. Res. 44, 74th Congress; H. Res. 11, 75th Congress; H. Res. 65, 76th Congress; H. Res. 49, 77th Congress; H. Res. 20, 78th Congress; H. Res. 75, 79th Congress. In discharge of the task committed to it, the committee conducted extensive public

hearings, receiving testimony from representatives of Federal, State, and private agencies concerned with wild life conservation and from other witnesses. The committee communicated the findings and recommendations derived from its investigation to the House of Representatives in a series of reports: House Report 1, 74th Congress, 1st session; House Report 2, 75th Congress, 1st session; House Report 3112, 76th Congress, 3rd session; House Report 2746, 77th Congress, 2nd session; and House Report 2097, 78th Congress, 2nd session.

The scope and character of the activities of the committee were described by its chairman as follows:

"Our committee has jurisdiction in an advisory and investigatory capacity over all of the wildlife conservation of the Federal agencies directly engaged in that work, which are the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and U. S. Forest Service (the Park Service administering about twenty-five million acres of land and the Forest Service one hundred and seventy-five million acres). We likewise have jurisdiction over those incidentally engaged in wildlife conservation, such as the Soil Conservation Service, the Army and Navy, now big land owners, the Reclamation and Grazing Services, etc. The agencies dealing directly in conservation matters consult us with respect to all major policies. The other agencies cooperate. We worked out a plan for full and helpful cooperation not only between agencies dealing directly in wildlife conservation but between all the agencies of the Government touching that field.

"We sponsored the Duck Stamp Act, which produces about one million dollars a year for migratory waterfowl, and the tax on sporting guns and ammunition that produces about three million dollars per year, to be used as grants-in-aid to the States. There is now to the credit of that trust fund about ten million dollars. We exercise constant supervision over the way that fund is handled.

"When the CCC camps were organized, they first operated with little regard to wildlife conservation. Under our direction it was turned into one of the best conservation agencies we have ever had, building thousands of fine fishing ponds, improving the restocking thousands of miles of fishing streams, and handling its silvicultural operations both in regard to leaving a habitat and food for wildlife as well as the production of a commercial timber crop. The CCC camps also had an active part in building and developing breeding and feeding refuges for migratory birds in an area of some twelve million acres, which was a major contribution to the fact that we now have about four times as many ducks and geese as we had before our Committee started its operations.

"The fact that these conservation agencies of the Government must report each year in detail to us on their operations, and, knowing those reports will be printed and distributed to the four corners of the country keeps them on their toes and encourages them to tackle new jobs to which they can in such reports 'point with pride'. Our reports go not only to all State game departments and organized conservation associations, but to many public libraries and the technical schools of many colleges. It is the only full and complete report of the conservation work of the Government, and in some schools our hearings are used as text books.

"Another service, and of no mean proportions, rendered by our Committee . . . was in forcing the U. S. Forest Service to recognize the superior jurisdiction of the States where title to and the right to take wildlife was involved. Our committee is the forum to which State game departments, conservation organizations and individual sportsmen come for the presentation of their views and the protection of their rights. We were successful in working out a cooperative agreement between the Government and the States in the administration of National Forest areas that has apparently been satisfactory to all concerned. And from the standpoint of the average sportsman, the most popular thing we have done was in urging the Fish and Wildlife Service to liberalize shooting regulations in recognition of the increased supply of game."

The records of the committee are divided into four groups: Records of the Select Committee on Conservation of Wild-life Resources, 73rd-77th Congress; Records of the Select Committee on Conservation of Wild-life Resources, 78th Congress; Records of the Select Committee on Conservation of Wild-life Resources, 79th Congress; and Administrative Records of the Select Committee on Conservation of Wild-life Resources, 73rd-79th Congress.

The first three groups contain records of similar types, such as records relating to House and Senate bills concerning wild-life conservation or to the hearings conducted by the committee; and are differentiated by the Congresses to which they respectively relate. The other group consists of the administrative records of the committee.

The records of the Select Committee on Conservation of Wild-life Resources amount to approximately eleven cubic feet; and being subject to orders of the House, cannot be made available to any person except by express permission of the House of Representatives.

Records of the Select Committee on Conservation of  
Wild-life Resources, 73rd-77th Congress

HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS RELATING TO WILD-LIFE CONSERVATION. Jan. 1934-  
Sept. 1942. 7 in. 1

Prints of bills as introduced in the House of Representatives or Senate or reported out of their respective committees, providing for legislation for the conservation of wild-life resources and concerning subjects such as the preservation of wild-life and migratory bird refuges, the protection of the American eagle from extinction, the conservation of fishery resources, and the acquisition of additional land for national parks. The bills are accompanied with related papers reflecting phases of their legislative history, comprising correspondence of the chairman with members of the House and Senate, the Bureau of Biological Survey, State conservation commissions, private organizations such as the American Wildlife Institute, National Committee on Wildlife Legislation, Izaak Walton League, More Game Birds in America, Inc., and General Wildlife Federation, and citizens, concerning legislative proceedings on the bills, the opinion of Federal, State, and private agencies on the merits of the several bills, and the views of individual citizens thereon. Arranged by subject.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. July 1933-Dec. 1942. 3 ft. 2

This series of records consists of correspondence of the chairman resulting from administering the affairs of the special committee and from dealing with questions of wild-life conservation with citizens, State conservation commissions, agencies of the Federal Government, members of Congress, and private organizations such as the American Wildlife Institute, National Association of Audubon Societies, Izaak Walton League, and More Game Birds in America, Inc. The series includes correspondence with members of the Committee regarding the committee's agenda; with State conservation commissions respecting problems facing Federal and State conservation agencies; with citizens, State conservation commissions, and private organizations regarding their requests for copies of the committee's published hearings and reports or respecting pending legislation in Congress connected with wild-life conservation; and with the Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies regarding their activities in the interest of wild-life conservation, their opinions on the problems in that field, or the submission of information to the committee bearing on its inquiry. Arranged alphabetically by the first two letters of the surname of the correspondent.

SUBJECT FILE. Mar. 1934-Sept. 1941. 7 in.

This series consists of copies of publications of the Department of Agriculture dealing with subjects connected with wild-life conservation, such as the opening and closing dates of hunting seasons for migratory game birds, laws relating to the hunting of game birds and mammals, waterfowl flyways of North America, officials and organizations concerned with wild-life protection, cooperative research in wild-life management, and acquisition of land by purchase, gift, or lease under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of February 18, 1929. Included in the series are memoranda regarding the organization and activities of the Bureau of Biological Survey and of Fisheries, Department of Agriculture; published House documents embodying annual reports of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, 75th, 76th, and 77th Congress; and mimeographed copies of opinions of District Court judges in criminal and civil cases involving the Migratory Bird Treaty (39 Stat. 1702). Arranged by subject.

RECORDS RELATING TO THE HEARINGS OF THE COMMITTEE IN <sup>THE</sup> SEVENTY-SIXTH AND SEVENTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS. Jan. 1940-Dec. 1941. 1 ft.

This series consists of correspondence with representatives of Federal and State agencies concerned with the conservation of wild life resources, regarding the invitations of the committee to these correspondents to submit for inclusion in the transcript of the hearings statements on the progress of the conservation activities of their respective agencies and to furnish testimony in the hearings of the committee bearing on its inquiry. Included is correspondence of the committee clerk with individuals having furnished testimony for the committee, regarding the review and editing of the transcript of their testimony preparatory to the final printing thereof; memoranda of the committee staff listing the names of witnesses to be called to testify and also topics to be discussed in the hearings; and volumes of the published hearings of the committee, 73rd-76th Congress. Arranged by subject.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE. Jan. 1935-Jan. 1941. 5 in.

This series consists of drafts of reports of the committee to the House of Representatives, plus related papers. The series comprises drafts of House Report 1, 74th Congress, 1st session; House Report 2, 75th Congress, 1st session; House Report 3112, 76th Congress, 3rd session; and House Report 2746, 77th Congress, 2nd session; correspondence with Federal agencies concerned with wild-life conservation, submitting in response to requests of the committee information on their activities for inclusion in reports of the committee; and correspondence with State conservation commissions submitting, pursuant to requests of the committee, their views on the conservation activities of the Farm Security Administration and of the CCC camps and comments on the work of the committee; and prints of some of the reports. Arranged alphabetically by report number.

Records of the Select Committee on Conservation  
of Wild-life Resources, 78th Congress

HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS RELATING TO WILD-LIFE CONSERVATION. Jan. 1943-Dec. 1944. 2 in.

6

Prints of bills as introduced in the House of Representatives or Senate or reported out of their respective committees, providing for legislation for the conservation of wild-life resources and concerning subjects such as the transfer of certain functions of the Fish and Wildlife Service to the Department of Agriculture, the construction of certain public works on rivers and harbors for flood control, the abolition of the Jackson Hole National Monument, the interstate transportation of black bass, the amendment of the Taylor Grazing Act to provide for greater participation by district advisory boards in the administration of the law, and the conservation of wild life on public lands and reservations of the United States. The bills are accompanied with correspondence of the chairman with Federal and State officials concerned with wild life conservation and with citizens and private organizations, regarding the merits of the various bills or legislative proceedings thereon. Arranged numerically by bill number.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO SHOTGUN AND RIFLE SHELLS FOR CIVILIAN USE. Sept. 1943-Dec. 1944. 1 in.

7

This series comprises correspondence of the chairman with members of Congress, the War Production Board, State conservation commissions, and citizens regarding the propriety of relaxing the order of the War Production Board limiting the production of shotgun and rifle shells for civilian use. Without arrangement.

RECORDS RELATING TO THE HEARINGS OF THE COMMITTEE IN THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS. April 1944-Jan. 1945. 10 in.

8

This series comprises correspondence with representatives of Federal and State agencies concerned with the conservation of wild-life resources concerning the invitations of the committee to these correspondents to submit for inclusion in the transcript of the hearings of the committee statements on the progress of the conservation activities of their respective agencies and to furnish testimony in the hearings of the committee bearing on its inquiry. Included are prints of the hearings held December 9-10, 1943, and November 17, 27, 28, and 29, 1944. Without arrangement.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE. April 1944-Jan. 1945. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  in.

9

Incomplete draft of House Report 2097, 78th Congress, 2nd session, together with related papers. The papers consist of correspondence of the chairman with certain Federal agencies regarding the submission to the committee, for inclusion in its report, of information concerning their wild-life conservation activities; and correspondence with members of the committee respecting the invitation of the chairman to submit recommendations for the preparation of the report. Without arrangement.

Records of the Select Committee on Conservation  
of Wild-life Resources, 79th Congress

HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS RELATING TO WILD-LIFE CONSERVATION. May 1945-July 1946. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  in.

10

This series consists of prints of bills as introduced in the House of Representatives or Senate or reported out of their respective committees, providing for legislation for the conservation of wild-life resources and concerning subjects such as public shooting on national wild life refuges, Federal aid to States in fish restoration and management projects, the prevention of starvation and disease among waterfowl along their flyways, the use of live decoys in the taking of ducks, and the registration of firearms. Included are "slip laws" of Public Laws 533 and 732, 79th Congress. Arranged numerically by bill number.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. June 1937-Dec. 1946. 2 ft.

11

This series of records consists of correspondence of the chairman resulting from administering the affairs of the committee and from dealing with questions of wild life conservation with citizens, members of Congress, and Federal, State, and private agencies concerned with wild life conservation. The series comprises records of the same description as comprehended in series title two. Interspersed in the series are records of the committee pertaining to prior Congresses. Arranged alphabetically by subject or by the first letter of the surname of the correspondent.

RECORDS RELATING TO THE HEARINGS IN THE SEVENTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Mar. 1945-Oct. 1946. 7 in.

12

This series comprises correspondence with representatives of Federal agencies concerned with conservation of wild life resources respecting the invitations of the committee to these correspondents to submit for inclusion in the transcript of the hearings of the

committee statements on the progress of the conservation activities of their respective agencies and to furnish relevant testimony in the hearings of the committee. Included are prints of the hearings held June 19-20, 1945. Without arrangement.

Administrative Records of the Select Committee on Conservation  
of Wild-life Resources, 73rd-79th Congress

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS. Feb. 1934-Mar. 1946. 8 in.

13

The administrative records of the committee comprise its minutes, describing the proceedings in meetings of the members thereof; prints of House resolutions, accompanied with related correspondence with members of Congress, authorizing the continuation of the work of the committee during the 74th and succeeding Congresses; copies of speeches of the chairman on wild-life conservation; clippings from unbound copies of the Congressional Record recording debates and proceedings in the House concerning the committee; and correspondence from citizens requesting copies of the published hearings and reports of the committee. Arranged by subject.