

October 1, 1936

[Eckens Forest Festival, Eckens, W. Va.]

0929

FDR Speech File

READING COPY

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
ELKINS FOREST FESTIVAL
ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA,
OCTOBER 1, 1936.

GOVERNOR KUMP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The setting in which we are gathered today for this Forest Festival turns our thoughts toward conservation.

This wonderland of natural beauty is at one and the same time a challenge and a justification. It demonstrates what can be done in the way of conservation of our resources. It shows us how prodigal nature is in her gifts, while at the same time it emphasizes the necessity for men to supplement nature's work in order that the rich gifts which are ours may be brought to their fullest usefulness in the service of all mankind.

The State of West Virginia is rightly proud of its glorious natural scenery but the State also shows to us what happens when man flies in the face of nature. Today I have seen many square miles of splendid mountains which have been denuded of timber. I have seen yellow streams carrying eroded silt and soil from the steep slopes.

In this State, as in many others, we are proud of the growing consciousness of the people themselves that man's errors in the past must be corrected by man in the future. In this worthwhile effort the State and the Federal Government are working hand in hand.

Here and hereabouts you see what can be done through the National Forest Service in cooperation with the work of the State Conservation Preserves; you have an opportunity to observe first hand the practical contribution to enlightened conservation made by our CCC camps and all of the other agencies whose activities are directed to the preservation of our matchless resources here at the gateway to the Monongahela National Forest.

No part of our conservation work is more important than the protection of our wild life. It is a work into which we can all enter heart and soul because there is no political partisanship in an activity whose object is to preserve and restore the life of our great out-of-doors.

I am sure that those in this audience who are devotees of outdoor life, whether fishermen, hunters, naturalists or nature lovers, will rejoice to know what has been done during the last three and one-half years to protect and perpetuate our wild life. In the past it had been shamefully neglected and exploited. One of the earliest concerns of this Administration upon assuming office was to provide a national wild life restoration program and a policy that would make certain that the conservation of our wild animals, birds and fishes would thereafter take rank with the conservation of the other great renewable resources of the Nation. Plans to accomplish this had been available for years but they had been in great part ignored.

We evolved a national wild life conservation program which proposed to provide abundantly for the needs of wilf life by purchase and retirement of agricultural lands submarginal in character, by the purchase of other suitable lands, and by making generous allocations of public lands, all to be set aside as sanctuaries.

Allotments totalling \$14,700,000 have been made from current emergency funds to support the wild life program — an amount greater than the total of all funds previously appropriated for that specific purpose. In addition, I approved an Act of Congress continuing an appropriation of \$8,000,000 of emergency funds for identical purposes, making altogether \$20,700,000 for the conservation of water fowl, birds and other valuable forms of American wild life.

We outlined and enacted a legislative program to give effect to our policy:

(1) The Duck Stamp Bill, which has raised about \$700,000 a year for the protection of migratory birds.

(2) The Coordination Bill, requiring active cooperation of each department of the Administration and Cabinet officers in the enforcement of game laws.

(3) The Robinson Bill, creating game sanctuaries on all public properties — a big step forward.

Besides this we completed the Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico, which had hung fire for nearly twenty years. This treaty supplements a similar treaty with Canada, which gives protection on the Southern flight. By the terms of the treaty with Mexico, protection is given migratory birds on the Northern flight.

I cite these facts because critics of this Administration have lately been engaged in expressing dissatisfaction with the progress of wild life restoration by the Federal Government during the past three years. Yet, in pursuance of this program the Nation has, in that time, acquired and set aside some 4,800,000 acres of land and dedicated it to the restoration and perpetuation of valuable wild life. Many of these refuges have been located on the principle resting and breeding grounds of the wild fowl; others are placed along the main migratory flight lanes, while still others afford rest, food and safety to the birds on their winter quarters.

In the western country great ranges have been established to perpetuate the big game species -- the elk, antelope, mountain sheep, and the deer. All these sanctuaries afford shelter and security to hosts of song and insectivorous birds and to a great variety of other wild creatures. The total area of Federal wild life sanctuaries acquired in all previous years was approximately 1,800,000 acres in the United States. Thus, since June 30, 1934, more than two and one-half ~~times~~^{times as} much wild life sanctuary area has been acquired or is now being acquired than in all the preceding years in the history of our

Government. This work is now going on and it will be continued with the same vigor and singleness of purpose.

It is pertinent to remind you here that seven million of our citizens take out fishing licenses each year and that six million more take out annual hunting licenses, a total of thirteen million -- a veritable army to uphold the banner of conservation.

Drainage, drought, and overshooting having greatly decreased the numbers of our waterfowl, I have for three consecutive years at the cost of much bitter criticism approved regulations drastically reducing the open shooting seasons and bag limits and prohibiting the use of certain devices known to be unduly destructive. As a consequence I am informed that there is evidence that these species have shown some increase in numbers, and it is believed that they may now survive these disasters.

Such, my friends, is a brief and incomplete statement of the ways and means by which this Administration has made effective its recognition of the fact that the wild life in our fields and woods and waters constitutes a resource of vital importance to all Americans and that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government in cooperation with the States to safeguard it for future generations. At last we are making definite progress.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL
ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA.

October 1, 1936, 10 o'clock Noon

The setting in which we are gathered today

for this Forest Festival turns our thoughts toward
conservation.

This wonderland of natural beauty is at one
and the same time a challenge and a justification. It
demonstrates what can be done in the way of conserva-
tion of our resources. It shows us how prodigal nature
is in her gifts while at the same time it emphasizes
the necessity for men to supplement nature's work in
order that the rich gifts which are ours may be brought
to their fullest usefulness in the service of all man-
kind.

The State of West Virginia is rightly proud
of its glorious natural scenery, but the State also
shows to us what happens when man flies in the face of
nature. Today I have seen many square miles of splendid
mountains which have been denuded of timber. I have
seen yellow streams carrying eroded silt and soil from
the steep slopes.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words added extemporaneously to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

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In this State, as in many others, we are proud of the growing consciousness of the people themselves that man's errors in the past must be corrected by man in the future. In this worthwhile effort the State and the Federal Government are working hand in hand.

Here and hereabouts you see what can be done through the National Forest Service in cooperation with the work of the State Conservation Preserves; you have an opportunity to (observe) see at first hand the practical contribution (to enlightened conservation) that is being made by our CCC camps and all of the other agencies whose activities are directed to the preservation of our matchless resources here at the gateway to the Monongahela National Forest.

No part of our conservation work is more important than the protection of our wild life. It is a work into which we can all enter heart and soul, because there is no political partisanship in an activity whose object is to preserve and restore the life of our great-out-of-doors.

I am sure that those in this audience who are

devotees of outdoor life, whether fishermen, hunters, naturalists, campers or hikers, will rejoice to know what has been done during the last three and one-half years to protect and perpetuate our wild life. In the past it had been shamefully neglected and exploited.

One of the earliest concerns of (this) my Administration (upon) on assuming office was to provide a national wild life restoration program and a policy that would make certain that the conservation of our wild animals, birds and fishes would thereafter take rank with the conservation of the other great renewable resources of the Nation. Plans to accomplish this had been available for years but, I am sorry to say, they had been in great part ignored.

We evolved a (national) wild life conservation program which proposed, largely in conjunction with giving work to the unemployed to provide abundantly for the needs of wild life by purchase and retirement of agricultural lands that were submarginal in character, by the purchase of other suitable lands, and by making generous allocations of public lands, all to be set aside as sanctuaries.

Allotments totalling (\$14,700,000) nearly fifteen million dollars have been made from current emergency funds to support (the wild life) this great program -- an amount greater than all the total of all funds that have previously been appropriated for that specific purpose in all our American history. In addition, I approved an Act of Congress continuing an appropriation of \$6,000,000 of emergency funds for (identical) the same kind of purposes, making altogether (\$20,700,000) nearly twenty-one million dollars for the conservation of water fowl, birds and other valuable forms of American wild life.

We outlined (and enacted) in those days, three years ago, a legislative program to give effect to our policy and it has been carried into effect.

- (1) The Duck Stamp Bill, which has raised about \$700,000 a year for the protection of migratory birds.
- (2) The Coordination Bill, requiring active cooperation of each department of the Administration and Cabinet officers in the enforcement of game laws.
- (3) The Robinson Bill, creating game sanctuaries on all public properties - a big step forward.

And besides (this) that we went further afield,

we completed the Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico, a treaty which had hung fire and gotten nowhere for nearly twenty years. (This) That treaty supplements a similar treaty with our neighbor, Canada, which gives protection to birds on their (on the) southern flight. By the terms of the treaty with Mexico, protection is given migratory birds on the northern flight.

I cite these facts because critics of this Administration have lately been engaged in expressing dissatisfaction with the progress of wild life restoration by the Federal Government during the past three years. Apparently, while they want us to save money, they don't think we spent enough money. And yet, in pursuance of (this) our program, the Nation has (in that time,) acquired in these past three years and set aside some 4,800,000 acres of land and dedicated it to the restoration and perpetuation of valuable wild life. Many of (these) the refuges have been located on the principal resting and breeding grounds of (the) wild fowl of all kinds; others are placed along the main migratory flight lanes, while still others afford rest and food and safety to the birds in their winter quarters.

Out in the western country great ranges have been established to perpetuate the big game species -- (the) elk, antelope, mountain sheep and (the) deer. Of course, before the white man came to what is the State of West Virginia, we had here in the East great numbers of animals which are today becoming more and more rare. All these sanctuaries afford shelter and security to hosts of song and insectivorous birds and to a great variety of other wild creatures. The total area of Federal wild life sanctuaries that had been acquired in all previous years before 1933 (was approximately) amounted to only 1,800,000 acres. (in the United States.) (Thus,) And so since (June 30, 1934) the beginning of 1934 more than two and one-half times as much wild life sanctuary area has been acquired or is now being acquired than in all the preceding years in the history of our Government. (This) The work is (now) going on and I believe that for the next four years it (will) is going to be continued with the same vigor. (and singleness of purpose.) (Applause)

It is pertinent to remind you here that seven

million of our citizens take out fishing licenses each year and that six million more take out annual hunting licenses, a total of thirteen million - a veritable army to uphold the banner of conservation.

You know, this touches into the lives and the homes of an enormous number of Americans. Just think of it, seven millions of our citizens took out fishing licenses last year. Six millions took out annual hunting licenses. It is an army of thirteen million upholding the banner of conservation.

Drainage and drought and overshooting having greatly decreased the numbers of our waterfowl and other types of our wild life. (I have) For three consecutive years at the cost of much bitter criticism, I have approved regulations drastically reducing the open shooting seasons and the bag limits and prohibiting the use of certain devices known to be unduly destructive. But as a consequence (I am) we are informed that there is evidence that these species have shown some increase in numbers, and it is believed that through our action they may now survive (these) the disasters and the killings of former years.

Such, my friends, is a brief and very incomplete statement of the ways and means by which this Administration has made effective its recognition of the fact that the wild life in our fields and woods and waters constitutes a resource of vital importance to all Americans and that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government in cooperation with the States to safeguard it for future generations. At last we are making definite progress.

Governor Kump, Senator Neely and Congressman Randolph have been strong supporters of all of this work. The State of West Virginia understands it.
You have not only vast natural resources but you have vast human resources. (Applause) And I am thinking not only of the birds and the beasts and the fishes, but I am thinking of the necessity of keeping them from becoming extinct in order that the human resources, our children and our grandchildren, may have them here.
(Prolonged applause)

STATEMENTS FILE
Signed by Kannee

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

CAUTION: This address of the President at the Mountain State Forest Festival, Elkins, West Virginia, is not to be released until delivery, expected about 12 o'clock Noon, October 1, 1936.

PLEASE SAFEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

M. H. McINTYRE
Assistant Secretary to the President.

The setting in which we are gathered today for this Forest Festival turns our thoughts toward conservation.

This wonderland of natural beauty is at one and the same time a challenge and a justification. It demonstrates what can be done in the way of conservation of our resources. It shows us how prodigal nature is in her gifts while at the same time it emphasizes the necessity for man to supplement nature's work in order that the rich gifts which are ours may be brought to their fullest usefulness in the service of all mankind.

The State of West Virginia is rightly proud of its glorious natural scenery, but the State also shows to us what happens when man flies in the face of nature. Today I have seen many square miles of splendid mountains which have been denuded of timber. I have seen yellow streams carrying eroded silt and soil from the steep slopes.

In this State, as in many others, we are proud of the growing consciousness of the people themselves that man's errors in the past must be corrected by man in the future. In this worthwhile effort the State and the Federal Government are working hand in hand.

Here and hereabouts you see what can be done through the National Forest Service in cooperation with the work of the State Conservation Preserves; you have an opportunity to observe first hand the practical contribution (~~to enlightened conservation~~) made by our CCC camps and all of the other agencies whose activities are directed to the preservation of our matchless resources here at the gateway to the Monongahela National Forest.

No part of our conservation work is more important than the protection of our wild life. It is a work into which we can all enter heart and soul, because there is no political partisanship in an activity whose object is to preserve and restore the life of our great out-of-doors.

I am sure that those in this audience who are devotees of outdoor life, whether fishermen, hunters, naturalists, campers or hikers, will rejoice to know what has been done during the last three and one-half years to protect and perpetuate our wild life. In the past it had been shamefully neglected and exploited. One of the earliest concerns of this Administration upon assuming office was to provide a national wild life restoration program and a policy that would make certain that the conservation of our wild animals, birds and fishes would thereafter take rank with the conservation of the other great renewable resources of the Nation. Plans to accomplish this had been available for years but, they had been in great part ignored. (A.M.)

We evolved a national wild life conservation program which proposed to provide abundantly for the needs of wild life by purchase and retirement of agricultural lands submarginal in character, by the purchase of other suitable lands, and by making generous allocations of public lands, all to be set aside as sanctuaries.

Allotments totalling \$14,750,000 have been made from current emergency funds to support the wild life program -- an amount greater than the total of all funds previously appropriated for that specific purpose. In addition, I approved an Act of Congress continuing an appropriation of \$6,000,000 of emergency funds for identical purposes, making altogether \$20,750,000 for the conservation of water fowl, birds and other valuable forms of American wild life. (B) (cont)

We outlined and enacted a legislative program to give effect to our policy. (B) (cont)

- (1) The Duck Stamp Bill, which has raised about \$700,000 a year for the protection of migratory birds.
- (2) The Coordination Bill, requiring active cooperation of each department of the Administration and Cabinet officers in the enforcement of game laws.
- (3) The Robinson Bill, creating game sanctuaries on all public properties - a big step forward.

Besides that we completed the Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico, which had hung fire for nearly twenty years. This treaty supplements a similar treaty with Canada, which gives protection on the southern flight. By the terms of the treaty with Mexico, protection is given to migratory birds on the northern flight.

I cite these facts because critics of this Administration have lately been engaged in expressing dissatisfaction with the progress of wild life restoration by the Federal Government during the past three years. Yet, in pursuance of this program, the Nation has, in that time, acquired and set aside some 4,500,000 acres of land and dedicated it to the restoration and perpetuation of valuable wild life. Many of these refuges have been located on the principal resting and breeding grounds of the wild fowl; others are placed along the main migratory flight lanes, while still others afford rest, food and safety to the birds in their winter quarters. (B) (cont)

W.C.L. (cont)

1) In the western country great ranges have been established to perpetuate the big game species -- the elk, antelope, mountain sheep, and deer. All these sanctuaries afford shelter and security to hosts of song and insectivorous birds and to a great variety of other wild creatures. The total area of Federal wild life sanctuaries acquired in all previous years was approximately 1,800,000 acres in the United States. Thus, since June 20, 1934, more than two and one-half times as much wild life sanctuary area has been acquired or is now being acquired than in all the preceding years in the history of our Government. This work is now going on and it will be continued with the same vigor and singleness of purpose. 33

It is pertinent to remind you here that seven million of our citizens take out fishing licenses each year and that six million more take out annual hunting licenses, a total of thirteen million -- a veritable army to uphold the banner of conservation.

X Drainage, drought and overshooting having greatly decreased the numbers of our waterfowl, I have for three consecutive years at the cost of much bitter criticism approved regulations drastically reducing the open shooting seasons and bag limits and prohibiting the use of certain devices known to be unduly destructive. As a consequence I am informed that there is evidence that these species have shown some increase in numbers, and it is believed that they may now survive these disasters.

Such, my friends, is a brief and incomplete statement of the ways and means by which this Administration has made effective its recognition of the fact that the wild life in our fields and woods and waters constitutes a resource of vital importance to all Americans and that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government in cooperation with the States to safeguard it for future generations. At last we are making definite progress.

W. C. Hayes - End of speech
10 minutes (10:00 AM)
X in 10 minutes 10:00 AM
10:00 AM 10:00 AM
Yoko and wife

SUGGESTED DRAFT OF REMARKS AT ELKINS FOREST FESTIVAL

Draft:

GOVERNOR KUMP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The setting in which we are gathered today for ~~this~~ Forest Festival turns our thoughts toward conservation.

This wonderland of natural beauty is at one and the same time a challenge and a justification. It demonstrates what can be done in the way of conservation of our resources. It shows us how prodigal nature is in her gifts, while at the same time it emphasizes the necessity for man to supplement nature's work in order that the rich gifts which are ours may be brought to their fullest usefulness in the service of all mankind.

For it is not by mere accident that we are assembled amid all the grandeur and the beauty which afford a delightful setting for this Forest Festival. These surroundings exemplify what can be achieved in a partnership -- a cooperative effort between man and nature.

Here and hereabouts you see what can be done through the National Forest Service in cooperation with the work of the State Conservation Preserves; you have an opportunity to observe first hand the practical contribution to enlightened conservation made by our CCC camps and all of the other agencies whose activities are directed to the preservation of our matchless resources here at the gateway to the Monongahela National Forest.

Here and in the environs of this place we behold the dominion that man has acquired over forest and stream, while at the same time he has made friends of all the denizens of the woods and waters. ~~No~~ part of our conservation work is more important than the protection of our wild life. It is a work into which we can all enter heart and soul because there is no political partisanship in an activity whose object is to preserve and restore the life of our great out-of-doors.

I am sure that those in this audience who are devotees of outdoor life, whether fishermen, hunters, naturalists or nature lovers, will rejoice to know what has been done during the last three and one-half years to protect and perpetuate our wild life. In the past our ~~wild~~ life had been that ~~one~~ among our ~~natural~~ heritages most shamefully neglected and exploited. One of the earliest concerns of this Administration upon assuming office was to provide a national wild life restoration program and a policy that would make certain that the conservation of our wild animals, birds and fishes would thereafter take rank with the conservation of the other great renewable resources of the Nation. Although plans to accomplish this had been available for years they had been ignored, ^P ~~and never put into effect.~~

That is why I appointed a special committee to investigate the national wild life problem and to draw up a national plan and policy to provide for the restoration and maintenance of this resource and thereby prevent repetition of the bungling, cross-purpose and wasteful administration of the past. We evolved a national wild life conservation program which proposed to provide abundantly for the needs of wild life by purchase and retirement of agricultural lands submarginal in character, by the purchase of other suitable lands, and by making generous allocations of public lands, all to be set aside as sanctuaries.

Allotments totalling \$14,700,000 have been made from current emergency funds to support the ~~wildlife~~ program -- an amount greater than the total of all funds previously appropriated for that specific purpose. In addition, I approved an Act of Congress continuing an appropriation of \$6,000,000 of emergency funds for identical purposes, making altogether \$20,700,000 for the conservation of water fowl, birds and other valuable forms of American wildlife.

and initial

We outlined a legislative program to give effect to our policy!

I am glad to be able to tell all of our lovers of wildlife that we have carried out that program in its entirety.

~~Congress granted~~ and I had the satisfaction of approving:

(1) The Duck Stamp Bill, which has raised about \$700,000 a year for the protection of migratory birds.

(2) The Coordination Bill, requiring active cooperation of each department of the Administration and Cabinet officers in the enforcement of game laws.

(3) The Robinson Bill, creating game sanctuaries on all public properties - a big step forward.

Besides this we completed the Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico, which had hung fire for nearly twenty years. This treaty supplements a similar treaty with Canada, which gives protection on the Southern flight. By the terms of the treaty with Mexico, protection is given migratory birds on the Northern flight.

I cite these facts because critics of this Administration have lately been engaged in expressing dissatisfaction with the progress of wildlife restoration by the Federal Government during the past three years. Yet, in pursuance of this program the Nation has, in that time, acquired and set aside some 4,800,000 acres of land and dedicated it to the restoration and perpetuation of valuable wildlife. Many of these refuges have been located on the principal resting and breeding grounds of the wild fowl; others are placed along the main migratory flight lanes, while still others afford rest, food, and safety to the birds on their winter quarters.

In the western country great ranges have been established to perpetuate the big game species — the elk, antelope, mountain sheep, and the deer. All these sanctuaries afford shelter and security to hosts of song and insectivorous birds and to a great variety of other wild creatures.

The total area of Federal wildlife sanctuaries acquired in all previous years was approximately 1,200,000 acres in the United States. Thus, since June 10, 1934, more than two and one-half times as much wildlife sanctuary area has been acquired or is now being acquired than in all the preceding years in the history of our Government. This work is now going on and it will be continued with the same vigor and singleness of purpose.

It is pertinent to remind you here that seven million of our citizens take out fishing licenses each year and that six million more take out annual hunting licenses, a total of thirteen million -- a veritable army to uphold the banner of conservation.

Drainage, drought, and overshooting having greatly decreased the numbers of our waterfowl, I have for three consecutive years at the cost of much bitter criticism approved regulations drastically reducing the open shooting seasons and bag limits and prohibiting the use of certain devices known to be unduly destructive. As a consequence I am informed that there is evidence that these species have shown some increase in numbers, and it is believed that they may now survive these disasters.

Such, my friends, is a brief and incomplete statement of the ways and means by which this Administration has made effective its recognition of the fact that the wildlife in our fields and woods and waters constitutes a resource of vital importance to all Americans and that it is the responsibility ^{in cooperation with the states} of the Federal Government to safeguard it for future generations. At least we are making definite progress.

TUESDAY

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Submitted to Mr.
Hassett at White House
o/a Sept. 26, 1936 by
H. P. Sheldon
chief
Div. of Public Relations
Bur. of Biological Survey
U.S. Dept Agric.

RBS 2/13/63

(374)

PROGRESS IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

6/21/1938

6/17/39

The wildlife of the Nation constitutes a resource of nearly the first magnitude. In the past it has also been that one among our natural heritages most shamefully neglected and exploited. It is estimated that the economic returns realized each year in various ways from our wild animals, birds, and fishes amount to more than a billion dollars. This includes, for example, an estimate of the value of the protection given to our food crops, to our forests, and even to our health by the friendly multitudes of birds waging constant warfare upon our insect enemies. Yet this tremendous figure represents only the smallest of the benefits which Americans enjoy from this natural resource. The greatest profits that we derive from this resource--profits that dwarf all other values--are inspirational in character--they are the qualities that uplift man's spirit, restore his strength, and teach him anew of his place in the universal scheme. Reflect for a moment upon the aspect of a country totally devoid of any form of wildlife--a land without any sight or sound of wild bird, beast, or fish--a biological desert similar to the great barren plains of Central Asia, an abhorrent land, hostile and treacherous to all mankind--and you will understand why this Administration has considered it necessary to direct so much of the energy and effort of the Federal Government to the task of restoring and maintaining our vanishing wildlife; to the rehabilitation of our streams and water sources and our forests, and to the establishment of wildlife sanctuaries everywhere.

One of my earliest concerns upon assuming office was to provide a national wildlife restoration program and a policy that would make certain

that the conservation of our wild animals, birds, and fishes would thereafter take rank with the great renewable resources of the Nation. Although plans to accomplish this had been available for years, they had been ignored by previous Administrations and never put into effect. "Wildlife" as J. N. Darling expressed it, "was a stepchild." Its existence depended precariously upon meager and uncertain donations determined by the mood of the moment rather than by the requirements of a reasonable and forward looking plan. Its dwindling reserves were unprotected against exploitation by political interests and selfish groups. In the eyes of such men our wildlife was of value only as it might be exchanged for votes or preference. Great public works involving drainage or the impounding of water went forward without the smallest consideration for what the effect would be upon wildlife. There was little coordination of effort among the agencies of the Government having to do with these things. Conservationists were in despair over the anomaly of one Federal service busily engaged in destroying the very thing that another was engaged in building. The most tragic aspect of these confused and conflicting operations was that in most of these undertakings the damage to wildlife could have been averted or greatly minimized--and that without interference with the primary purposes--had provision been made to profit by the advice and knowledge of the Government's own wildlife experts! The Government employed these men and trained them, and at those vital junctures when their counsel would have assisted to conserve a billion dollar resource no use was made of the facts they had developed for such purposes.

That is why on January 6, 1934, I appointed a special committee to investigate the National wildlife problem and to draw up a National plan and

policy to provide for the restoration and maintenance of this resource and prevent repetition of the bungling, cross-purpose, and wasteful administration of the past. This committee was non-partisan as to membership, for I felt then, as I do now, that the husbandry of wildlife, no less than that of any of our great resources, was a thing that transcended the political exigencies of the moment. I called Mr. Thomas Beck, Mr. Jay N. Darling, and Mr. Aldo Leopold to the task, all of them nationally known conservationists, and in due time they presented a National wildlife conservation program based primarily upon the acquisition and improvement of land for wildlife sanctuaries and refuges, a plan that had already been frequently advocated by the Government's wildlife service--the Bureau of Biological Survey. It proposed to provide abundantly for the needs of wildlife, by the purchase and retirement of agricultural lands submarginal in character, by the purchase of other suitable lands, and by making generous allocations of public lands--all to be set aside as sanctuaries.

stop ~

Accordingly, on March 19, 1934, I approved the appointment of Mr. Jay N. Darling as Chief of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, with authority to put that part of the recommended program that was concerned with waterfowl and wildlife restoration into effect in so far as it was practicable to do so. Allotments totaling \$14,700,000 have been made from current emergency funds to support the program--an amount greater than the total of all funds previously appropriated for that specific purpose. In addition I approved an Act of Congress continuing an appropriation of \$6,000,000 of emergency funds for identical purposes, making altogether \$20,700,000 for the restoration of waterfowl, birds, and other valuable forms of American wildlife.

|| Critics of this Administration have lately been engaged in expressing dissatisfaction with the progress of wildlife restoration by the Federal Government during the past three years. Yet in pursuance of this program the Nation has in that time acquired and set aside some 4,800,000 acres of land and dedicated it to the restoration and perpetuation of valuable wildlife. Many of these refuges have been located on the principal resting and breeding grounds of the wildfowl; others are placed along the main migratory flight lanes, while still others afford rest, food, and safety to the birds on their winter quarters. || In the western country great ranges have been established to perpetuate the big game species--the elk, antelope, mountain sheep, and the deer. All these sanctuaries afford shelter and security to hosts of song and insectivorous birds and to a great variety of other wild creatures. The total area of Federal wildlife sanctuaries acquired in all previous years was approximately 1,800,000 acres in the United States. Thus, since June 30, 1934, more than two and one-half times as much wildlife sanctuary area has been acquired or is now being acquired than in all the preceding years in the history of our Government. This work is now going on and it will be continued with the same vigor and singleness of purpose. ||

In order to reduce the waste of wildlife occasioned by the lack of coordination among Federal agencies, to which I referred a moment ago, the Water Resources Committee of the National Resources Committee was created. The Bureau of Biological Survey, the Bureau of Fisheries, and the Forest Service are among others represented on this Committee to insure that in all future undertakings likely to affect wildlife or its habitat these interests shall have due and proper consideration. An Executive Order requiring this coordination is now in effect and will be adhered to.

It was a source of great personal satisfaction to me to give my approval on June 20, 1936, to an Act of Congress to give effect to a wildlife treaty with Mexico. The conservationists of America had long urged the need for such a treaty to support the similar convention with Canada executed in 1918, but their efforts had been fruitless until members of this Administration entered into successful negotiations with representatives of the Mexican Government. Ratification by the government of our neighbor nation is expected to follow. The new treaty will reinforce Federal authority exercised in the protection of our ducks, geese, and other migratory birds.

Due also to the interest of this administration we now have established approved courses in wildlife administration in nine land grant colleges throughout the country, supervised and directed by the Bureau of Biological Survey. This is undoubtedly the most important educational and research project ever undertaken to train young men for the task of caring for the Nation's wildlife resources, and to demonstrate correct management practices to farmers and landowners.

Drainage, drought, and overshooting having greatly decreased the numbers of our waterfowl, I have for three consecutive years at the cost of much bitter criticism approved regulations drastically reducing the open shooting seasons and bag limits and prohibiting the use of certain devices known to be unduly destructive. As a consequence I am informed that there is evidence that these species have shown some increase in numbers, and it is believed that they may now survive these disasters. //

This, my friends, is a brief and incomplete statement of the ways and means by which this Administration has made effective its recognition of the fact that our supply of wildlife constitutes a resource of vital importance to all Americans and that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to safeguard it for future generations.