

seems in this flurry of interest in the activities of this Senate committee that all kinds of extraordinary legislation are justified or become necessary in order for them to carry on what they deem to be their role.

I think the fact that we have been able to survive for almost 200 years without this kind of extraordinary legislation suggests that this special measure is not justified. I hope the bill (S. 2641) will be considered on its merits, and not be deemed valid simply because it seems to be popular to support anything that comes out of the Senate Watergate Committee.

I will present extended debate at the time that the bill is called up. I think it is No. 4 on the Suspension Calendar.

AMENDING THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4864) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4864

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (82 Stat. 906), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287), is further amended as follows:

(a) Section 7(b)(1) is amended by:

(i) deleting "five-year" and inserting in lieu thereof "ten-year".

(ii) deleting "publish" and inserting in lieu thereof "notify the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate in writing, including a copy of the study upon which his determination was made, at least one hundred and eighty days while Congress is in session, prior to publishing".

(b) Section 15(c) is amended by deleting "scenic view from the river," and inserting in lieu thereof "scenic and natural qualities of a designated wild, scenic, or recreational river area."

(c) Section 16 is amended as follows:

(i) delete "\$17,000,000" and insert "\$37,600,000".

(ii) redesignate "SEC. 16." as "SEC. 16. (a)" and insert "(b) The authority to make the appropriations authorized in this section shall expire on June 30, 1978".

The SPEAKER. Is a second demanded?

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Speaker, I demand a second.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, a second will be considered as ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SKUBITZ) will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the legislation now before the House is H.R. 4864—a bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. This legislation is the outgrowth of a proposal submitted to the Congress by the Secretary of the Interior earlier this year. To my knowledge, there is no opposition to it.

BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATION OF THE LEGISLATION

As many Members of the House will recall, the 90th Congress enacted legislation which designated eight rivers in different parts of the country as components of the wild and scenic rivers system and provided for the study of 27 others as potential additions to that system.

AUTHORIZATION INCREASE

At that time, it was impossible to know what the ultimate land costs would be for the initial components of the system, because detailed cost data had not been developed with respect to any of the many rivers then being suggested for inclusion. Based on the best information then available, the House approved the authorization of \$17,340,000 for the six rivers which it had included; however, the conferees recommended the inclusion of eight rivers and reduced the authorization to \$17 million.

In making this recommendation, the conferees noted in their report:

The amount authorized to be appropriated for land acquisition has been reduced from \$17,340,000 to \$17 million, it being understood that if escalation of land prices or other unforeseen factors require the appropriation of more than this amount, the two Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs will be willing to consider such further legislation as is necessary to carry out the act.

Now the departments have had experience with these scenic river acquisition programs and can more accurately project what the final costs will be. According to the information which has been supplied to the committee, the existing authorization has nearly been exhausted and further acquisition activities must be held in abeyance unless and until additional authority is granted. Current estimates indicate that an additional \$20.6 million will be needed to complete the land acquisition programs at the eight initial components of the system.

MORATORIUM EXTENSION

Much more detailed data was required on the 27 "study rivers" contained in the act so that cost estimates for them should be much more realistic. These comprehensive studies develop information upon which the Congress can make an informed judgment as to the wisest and best use of these natural resources. They take time. I am glad to report that progress is being made on the studies, but many of them have not yet been completed. Under the terms of the original act, a moratorium on water resource development projects on the study rivers was imposed for a term of 5 years. That moratorium ended on October 2. Unless it is extended, it is conceivable that some water resource projects might be initiated which would effectively preclude the Congress from considering whether a river qualifies for, and should be included in, the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. H.R. 4864 would amend the act to extend the moratorium for 5 additional years.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF NEGATIVE FINDING

It should be pointed out that, if a determination is made that any of the

study rivers are determined to be unsuitable for inclusion in the system, while the study is underway, then by publication of notice to that effect in the Federal Register, the Secretary of Interior or Agriculture could remove that river from the study category and thereby terminate the moratorium. The committee felt that the Congress should have an opportunity to review such a negative finding before it would become effective. It recommended that the legislation be amended to require a 180-day period for committee review of the study and findings before any study river is removed from the protections afforded it under the study section of the act.

DEFINITION OF "SCENIC EASEMENT" REVISED

Finally, based on experience with the act, it has been found that the definition of "scenic easement" is too restrictive and the committee recommends that it be broadened to include protection of the qualities of the river rather than being limited strictly to lands that can be seen from the river.

RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

That, Mr. Speaker, briefly explains the background and purpose of H.R. 4864, as recommended by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. It is not a complicated bill and, as far as I know, it is not a controversial one. It is a straightforward approach to deal with some realities which we face with this program.

I urge the adoption of the bill, as amended by the committee.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HOSMER).

Mr. HOSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4864, a bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. This bill was initiated by the administration as a component of the President's environmental package, and its basic thrust upon introduction and as subsequently amended is to extend certain provisions of the 1968 Act and to further perfect that act so as to help assure that the American people can, in perpetuity, enjoy the benefits of the few remaining natural and free-flowing streams across our Nation.

The United States has been a pioneer in this matter of protecting important remnants of naturalness along its streams by the formal creation of a system of wild and scenic rivers. The program is not only a most worthy one for the benefit of our people, but it also provides a working model for study, emulation, amplification, and perfection by other countries which are also striving to protect worthy segments of their natural environment.

The bill before us extends protection to numerous study rivers listed in the parent act for an additional 5-year period, by which time their suitability for possible addition to the river system should be determined by completed studies. The bill provides authorization for additional funding to complete the land acquisition program for the eight original rivers included in the system, and also provides an incentive for that acquisition program to be completed promptly.

The bill incorporates an extended period for the Congress to act upon any study report which discloses the nonsuitability of a study river for addition to the system, before the river is released from its protective study status. The bill also broadens the applicability of the use of scenic easements along the rivers.

All of the provisions of this amending legislation are designed to improve and perfect the wild and scenic rivers system which was created by the Congress in 1968. I urge my colleagues to fully support this bill.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in 1968 the Congress inaugurated an important and novel conservation step when it enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The Congress recognized that the proliferating activities of mankind along and adjacent to our streams and rivers, would eventually eliminate their natural, wild, and free-flowing character—unless legislative action was taken to prevent their destruction.

So under the 1968 act, eight free-flowing stream segments were designated and protected as wild and scenic in character, and were to form the backbone of a system of wild and scenic rivers.

The act also listed 27 additional river candidates considered worthy of further study, in anticipation of their possible addition to a growing system of wild and scenic rivers to be protected.

The 1968 act provided that while these 27 listed study rivers were being reviewed, they would be protected for a period of 5 years from the threat of water development projects as might be licensed by the Federal Power Commission under terms of the Federal Power Act.

With the studies on these 27 rivers not yet completed, the legislation before us provides an extension period of protection for an additional 5 years.

The 1968 act also provides that if it is concluded by the Secretary of the Interior or Agriculture, that a study river does not qualify for addition to the system, it then immediately loses the protection from water development projects which it enjoyed while in study status.

This bill, H.R. 4864, provides that upon such determination by a Secretary, he must so advise the authorizing committees of the Congress.

Then, 180 days—while Congress is in session—must elapse before notification of such determination of nonsuitability is published in the Federal Register.

This procedure, it was felt by the committee, should be provided so as to provide ample time for the Congress to act upon any negative study findings, before any stream is stripped of its study status protection.

This legislation broadens the definition of scenic easement as used in the parent act. Currently the application of scenic easements extends only to those lands within the river boundaries and visible from the river.

Since many activities which are not within sight of the river can be as impacting as those activities occurring within sight of the river this legislation

seeks to broaden the definition of scenic easement so as to permit its application to any area within the river boundaries where the scenic qualities of the river are jeopardized or threatened.

Finally, this bill would authorize an additional \$20.6 million to fund the completion of the land acquisition program for the original eight rivers which were designated as units of the system upon enactment in 1968.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, H.R. 4864, as introduced, was part of the President's environmental legislative program.

The few simple amendments added by the committee simply round out and perfect the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. I am proud to fully endorse this legislation, and I urge its adoption by my colleagues.

Mr. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SKUBITZ. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I find it a little difficult to determine which rivers have been added. Are there any projects added in either Kansas or Missouri? Does the gentleman have any list there may be two or three included for further study?

Mr. SKUBITZ. The gentleman will find the rivers that are listed are on page 4 of the report.

Mr. RANDALL. Well, that may be but there is no listing in the bill itself.

Mr. SKUBITZ. That is correct.

Mr. STEELMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SKUBITZ. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. STEELMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the ranking minority Member, the gentleman from Kansas, for his comments and associate myself with his comments.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is one of the outstanding pieces of environmental legislation passed by the U.S. Congress. I heartily support its amendment today and only hope that further understanding of all the ramifications of the act will lead to a greater expansion of the list of streams designated "scenic" or "recreational," as well as "wild."

I believe that few thoroughly understand the broad definitions of the various designations within this act, and among those aware of the act itself, many feel that an entire river must be designated "wild." That is not the case and possibly the reason that even more segments have not been advanced for inclusion under this act.

To date over 20 States have established wild and scenic rivers programs on their own. I hope that we can work in coordination with these and other States to acquaint citizens with the full extent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act so that there will be a reappraisal of all our streams and stream segments for designation as "scenic," "recreational," "study," "wild." And I encourage all citizens to push for inclusion of additional rivers and river segments under this act as soon as possible.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) that the

House suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 4864, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 921) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and ask for immediate consideration of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill as follows:

S. 921

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (82 Stat. 906) is amended as follows:

(a) In section 7(b)(1) delete "five-year" and substitute "ten-year".

(b) In section 16 delete "\$17,000,000" and substitute "\$37,600,000".

(c) In section 6(a) strike the comma after "donation" and insert in lieu thereof "or exchange".

(d) (1) In section 4 strike subsection (a) and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"SEC. 4. (a) The Secretary of the Interior or, where national forest lands are involved, the Secretary of Agriculture or, in appropriate cases, the two Secretaries jointly shall study and submit to the President reports on the suitability or nonsuitability for addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system of rivers which are designated herein or hereafter by the Congress as potential additions to such system. The President shall report to the Congress his recommendations and proposals with respect to the designation of each such river or section thereof under this Act. Such studies shall be completed and such reports shall be made to the Congress with respect to all rivers named in subparagraphs 5(a) (1) through (27) of this Act within three complete fiscal years after the date of enactment of this amendment: *Provided, however,* That with respect to the Suwannee River, Georgia and Florida, and the Upper Iowa River, Iowa, such study shall be completed and reports made thereon to the Congress prior to October 2, 1970. With respect to any river designated for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system by Act of Congress subsequent to this Act, the study of such river shall be completed and reports made thereon by the President to the Congress within three complete fiscal years from the date of enactment of such Act. In conducting these studies the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall give priority to those rivers with respect to which there is the greatest likelihood of developments which, if undertaken, would render the rivers unsuitable for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system. Every such study and plan shall be coordinated with any water resources planning involving the same river which is being conducted pursuant to the Water Resources Planning Act (79 Stat. 244; 42 U.S.C. 1962 et seq.).

"Each report, including maps and illustrations, shall show among other things the area included within the report; the characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the system; the current status of land ownership and use in the area;

the reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the national wild and scenic rivers system; the Federal agency (which in the case of a river which is wholly or substantially within a national forest, shall be the Department of Agriculture) by which it is proposed the area, should it be added to the system, be administered; the extent to which it is proposed that such administration, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies; and the estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands and interests in land and of administering the area, should it be added to the system. Each such report shall be printed as a Senate or House document."

(2) In section 5 strike subsection (b); and reletter subsections (c) and (d) as (b) and (c), respectively.

(3) In section 7(b) (1) strike all after "Act" and insert in lieu thereof "or the three complete fiscal year period following any Act of Congress designating any river for potential additional to the national wild and scenic river system, whichever is later, and"

(4) In section 7(b) (ii) strike "which is recommended", insert in lieu thereof "the report for which is submitted", and strike "for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system".

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TAYLOR
OF NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina: Strike out all after the enacting clause of S. 921 and insert in lieu thereof the provisions of H.R. 4864, as passed.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A similar House bill (H.R. 4864) was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have five legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks immediately before passage of H.R. 4864.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

DESIGNATING CHATTOOGA RIVER
AS COMPONENT OF NATIONAL
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9492) to designate the Chattooga River in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 9492

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (82 Stat. 906; 16 U.S.C. 1274(a)), as amended, is further amended by adding the following new paragraph:

"(10) CHATTOOGA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH

CAROLINA, GEORGIA.—The segment from 0.8 mile below Cashiers Lake in North Carolina to Tugaloo Reservoir, and the West Fork Chattooga River from its junction with Chattooga upstream 7.3 miles, as generally depicted on the boundary map entitled "Proposed Wild and Scenic Chattooga River and Corridor Boundary, dated August 1973; to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture shall take such action as is provided for under section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act within one year from the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That for the purposes of this river, there are authorized to be appropriated not more than \$2,000,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands and not more than \$809,000 for development."

The SPEAKER. Is a second demanded?

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Speaker, I demand a second.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, a second will be considered as ordered.

There was no objection.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pride to bring to the floor of the House a bill involving an area which is partially in my home State of North Carolina. H.R. 9492, which I cosponsored with my friends the gentlemen from South Carolina (Mr. DORN and Mr. MANN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LANDRUM) would add the Chattooga River and a portion of its West Fork to the wild and scenic rivers system.

BROAD SUPPORT

Usually, when we have bills of this kind, they have broad support, but sometimes they are controversial. In this case, practically everyone supports the designation of this river as a unit of the wild and scenic rivers system. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior, speaking for the administration, have given it their strong endorsement. The legislatures of all three States have approved resolutions recommending the inclusion of the river into the system. Most importantly, the public support for this legislation is practically unanimous.

Two public meetings were conducted by the Forest Service in the region involved and those who attended strongly supported the proposal. At the hearings of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, everyone testifying on the legislation spoke in favor of its enactment, and it was recommended by the subcommittee and the full Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs without a dissenting vote.

In short, Mr. Speaker, I know of no significant opposition to the enactment of H.R. 9492, as recommended. On the contrary, I believe it enjoys enthusiastic support from almost all quarters. Environmentalist and conservation organizations have endorsed it; all of the Members whose districts are involved have cosponsored it; and the States through which it flows have recommended it.

DESCRIPTION

The reason that this river has such broadly based support is that it is recognized as one of the most outstanding free-flowing streams remaining in the

Southeast. It begins on the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina—in the congressional district which I have the honor to represent—and flows through some spectacular, primitive mountain country before flowing down along the South Carolina-Georgia boundary. The river is free of impoundments and only a few relatively insignificant evidences of man can be seen anywhere along its main stem.

It is a dramatic river from its headwaters to Tugaloo Reservoir. For 50 miles, it drops an average of about 50 feet per mile from its upper reaches to the lower end. It includes several beautiful waterfalls, churning rapids and shoals challenging the most experienced whitewater enthusiasts, and occasionally calm stretches and minor ripples suitable for novice canoeists. The water quality of the entire river is extraordinarily high and it provides a fine habitat for mountain trout to delight the many fishermen who come to enjoy the stream.

Located in an area with most of the characteristics of wilderness, the river is free of any significant or unsightly intrusions by man. The surrounding country is almost as rugged as the river is wild and it represents, by itself, an important recreational resource for hikers and outdoor recreationists of all kinds.

VISITATION, SAFETY AND MANAGEMENT
OF THE AREA

Of course, such an area is a popular attraction to those living nearby. Many of the local people know the river well and understand its dangers, but for people not familiar with it the river can be very hazardous. Notwithstanding this fact many people accept the challenges which it offers without knowing the dangers involved.

Many people have visited the area in past years, but the numbers coming into the area since the movie "Deliverance" was filmed on the river, has increased dramatically. One knowledgeable witness told the committee that it is estimated that as many as 15,000 people traveled down the river this year. Many of these utilize the services of guides and river runners who are familiar with its hazards. To my knowledge, they have never experienced a fatal accident. Unfortunately, some who come are more daring and they can quickly get into difficulties from which they cannot easily extricate themselves.

While the enactment of this legislation might encourage more people to come, it will also permit the Forest Service to establish safety programs for those who do come. At the present time, the Forest Service has no authority to establish safety regulations—or to enforce them—with respect to use of the river. There is no existing program to warn unsuspecting visitors of the potential dangers which they might encounter. And there is no systematic method for determining when adventurous visitors have set out on a river running expedition or whether they have returned safely. These are some of the things that the Forest Service can and will do if the river is added to the system.

To help them, it is expected that the Forest Service will regulate, by contract, those who will be permitted to operate commercial float trips. There are pres-

ently several operators serving the public on the Chattooga. They have the experience with the river which can enable the visitor to have relatively safe and enjoyable experience and it is expected that they will be given preference in providing this service in the future.

Mr. Speaker, whether this legislation is adopted or not, the people will come. By enacting H. R. 9492 we will make sure that they are given some reasonable degrees of protection. Naturally, they must bear the primary responsibility for their own safety, but this legislation will enable the administering governmental agency to provide them with information and services which will help them have a safe and enjoyable visit.

Naturally, in administering this area the basic management objective will be to permit it to be used in a manner which will be compatible with the characteristics which made it suitable for inclusion in the system. Floating by raft, canoe and kayak will undoubtedly be an even more popular activity in the future than it is today. Fishing and hunting will continue to draw large numbers of visitors to the area. In addition, hikers, backcountry outdoorsmen and nature lovers will enjoy the primitive forest lands adjacent to the river.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND COST

By an exchange agreement with the Georgia Power Co., its holdings in the area were transferred to the Forest Service so that Federal land ownership now totals more than 80 percent of the 15,000-acre area. While some lands within the boundaries remain in private ownership and may be acquired, it is contemplated that scenic easements will satisfy most of the remaining needs. The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$2 million for land acquisition, but fee title to the remaining lands can be acquired only from willing sellers; consequently, it seems unlikely that all of these moneys will be expended.

Development along the river will be modest. The legislation authorizes \$809,000 for administrative and public and facilities. White certain access roads, trails and the like will be needed, most of the facilities to be installed will be designed to assure the protection of the river and the safety of its visitors.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, having visited in this area and having floated portions of this river myself on two occasions, I can give it my highest recommendation. It is a beautiful wild river in a magnificent natural area. H.R. 9492 will assure its preservation for the enjoyment of present and future generations. I urge its approval by my colleagues in the House.

Mr. GROSS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

The SPEAKER. The time of the gentleman from North Carolina has expired.

Mr. GROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I note something new has been added to reports in the House, this one carrying photographs. How does the gentleman get this job done? I do not recall ever

before seeing a report carrying photographs.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I will state to the gentleman that this river and the Big Thicket Area, which is the subject of the next bill, contains scenery which is so beautiful and which speaks for itself so well that the committee was of the opinion that the photographs would be a fine addition to the report, and they were approved.

Mr. GROSS. Mr. Speaker, does this add to the cost of the report?

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would think that it would add about the same as one additional page in the RECORD would have added.

Mr. GROSS. Does the gentleman mean that the plates by which the photographs are reproduced cost nothing?

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. The reproduction was made by the offset process which is inexpensive.

Mr. GROSS. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if in future reports there will be photographs of bathing beauties clad in bikinis?

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, someone might suggest that, but that is beyond the jurisdiction of our committee.

Mr. GROSS. And I guess it is beyond the jurisdiction of the gentleman from Iowa, too.

Mr. KAZEN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. KAZEN. Mr. Speaker, I am told that the cost of photographs in reports is not any more than would be of that of charts that are submitted in these reports.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HOSMER) such time as he may consume.

Mr. HOSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act passed by the Congress in 1968 provided a list of 27 rivers to be studied to determine their suitability for addition as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Chattooga River is one of these, and the study of it has yielded a favorable recommendation by the Department of Agriculture for its addition to the system. Further, the proposal has received widespread public support. This river is one of the few remaining undeveloped rivers in the southeastern United States. It possesses some extremely rough and challenging sections of white water for river runners, and constitutes a recreational resource not easy to match in this part of the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill by voting for its passage.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, The Chattooga River was designated as one of the 27 study rivers—and the study of the Chattooga was begun in 1969 by the Secretary of Agricul-

ture—by agreement with the Interior Department.

The Legislatures of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia approved the inclusion of the Chattooga in the system and the support for the wild and scenic river designation received almost unanimous approval.

The Chattooga River is one of the largest and longest undeveloped free flowing streams remaining in Southeastern United States.

The rivers included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System are classified as wild-scenic and recreation. The 57-mile segment of the Chattooga designated in H.R. 9492 meets the requirements of all categories.

About 87 percent of 15,432 acres of land within the boundaries of the river are owned and managed by the U.S. Forest Service—hence—land acquisition would be slight.

The bill provides for a land acquisition authorization of not to exceed \$2 million and a development ceiling of \$809,000.

This bill has the support of the Administration and I urge its adoption.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9492, to include the Chattooga River in the wild and scenic rivers system. The Chattooga which flows through the mountains and foothills of northwestern South Carolina, not many miles from my home, is one of the few remaining natural and historic resources of this country which until now has largely been spared from the "civilizing" impact of man and his machines.

When Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, it was the intent of Congress that certain selected rivers in the Nation which possessed outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, be preserved in free flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environs be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. That act designated the Chattooga River in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system. In July of this year, I joined with other Members of Congress from Chattooga River country in introducing H.R. 9492 to include the Chattooga as a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system in furtherance of the 1968 act. Favorable action on the bill before us today will insure that the natural wonders of the Chattooga, which have been enjoyed and taken for granted by past generations will be preserved for the continued enjoyment and appreciation of future generations.

Though the Chattooga has recently been popularized by the James Dickey novel, "Deliverance," and the movie of the same title, I have known the river since my earliest years as a South Carolina scholboy. I have always been fascinated by this white-water river, and the mystery and excitement which attracted me to the mighty Chattooga in the days of my youth continue to draw me back to its rushing waters and untamed natural beauty. I am sure that my colleagues in the Congress who visited the Chattooga River area in early August recall quite vividly the excitement

and breathtaking beauty we enjoyed during our float down the wild Chattooga. What we enjoyed on that memorable occasion should be protected from the destructive byproducts of an increasingly industrialized society in order that future generations may also experience that same enjoyment.

The Chattooga River would be a significant addition to the wild and scenic rivers system. The Chattooga is presently a clean, free-flowing, mountain stream in the deep forest of a relatively undeveloped area. In fact, it is one of the few remaining free-flowing streams in the southeast and is the only mountain river in the four-State area of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee without substantial commercial, agricultural, and residential development along its shores. This river is a prime example of the whitewater rivers that once abounded along the east coast but which now have had their natural state substantially altered by the advances of civilization. Many such rivers which once offered some of the same wonders the Chattooga affords us today are either dammed, flow through farms, cities, or other areas of commercial activity, or are being used for industrial refuse and sewage disposal. We now have the opportunity to protect the wild Chattooga from this fate, I urge the Congress to act favorably on the bill before us today in order that we might preserve the Chattooga as an example of what we used to have in abundance in the Southeastern United States.

Even though the Chattooga River has a quality of remoteness, it is readily accessible to several metropolitan areas and provides many types of outdoor recreation for which there is now great demand. Not only is the Chattooga a superior scenic attraction, it is also one of the great canoeing and rafting rivers in the East and provides canoeing opportunities for every degree of skill. Excellent opportunities for hunting and fishing exist in the area as well as opportunities for other types of outdoor recreation. And, the river is not without historical significance. Prior to 1600, the Chattooga River was in the land of the Cherokee Indians and legends, artifacts, and settlements provide a valuable source for the study of the Cherokee culture and history. The earliest record of white men in the area are hunter maps dated 1730 and 1751. In 1775 William Bartram, an early American botanist, visited the region and crossed the Chattooga. In 1830, white settlers arrived to make their homes along the Chattooga and there still remains evidence of pioneer construction in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit that the Chattooga River satisfies all the requirements for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system, and I therefore, urge the House to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 9492. As the report prepared by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs points out, this bill would include that portion of the Chattooga River from 0.8 mile below Cashiers Lake in North Carolina to Tugaloo Reservoir, and the West Fork Chattooga River from its junction with Chattooga upstream 7.3 miles as a component of

the wild and scenic rivers system, and authorize to be appropriated \$2 million for land acquisition and \$609,000 for development.

We must act without delay if we are to preserve another of the rapidly diminishing natural resources which this country used to possess in such great abundance.

Mr. VANIK. Mr. Speaker, two bills reported by the distinguished Interior Committee, H.R. 9492 adding the now famous Chattooga River to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and H.R. 11546, establishing Big Thicket National Preserve, are before us today. I intend to vote in favor of both measures for several reasons.

As a representative of a semiurban district I can see the need for Congress to continue to set aside natural, non-developable space for Americans. As our cities grow larger and more stifling, we cannot neglect the need of those residents for the beauty and relaxation that natural settings provide. In an era of property-as-investment, a climate has been created that tends to diminish the human value of land open to the public. We cannot let this happen by failing to procure forests and preserves and wild scenery that will otherwise be cheapened with condominiums and commercial camping sites.

Mr. Speaker, there is currently under consideration a bill to create a national historical area within 15,000 acres of the beautiful expanses of the Cuyahoga River Valley between Akron and Cleveland in my State of Ohio. This recreation area would offer many of the same things that the Chattooga River and Big Thicket do in their parts of the country. And in addition to a large green open space preserved from the bulldozer of the developer, the Cuyahoga Valley National Historical Park and Recreation Area would be within a single hour's drive of over 4 million people—a point especially important with the energy crisis now on top of us.

Unfortunately, the majority of our country's excellent national parks are in the West—in areas of great scenic beauty, but hundreds of miles beyond the range of their potential users. Gasoline shortages will not allow us the indulgence of day-long drives any longer. We must react to this situation by preserving, now, open spaces near our major urban centers for the enjoyment of all Americans in the future.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Speaker the Chattooga River is a unique national treasure. The bill now before the House will guarantee that its unspoiled natural setting will be protected. As a sponsor of the bill I urge its overwhelming approval.

Mr. Speaker, in the Southeast we are proud of a beautiful environment second to none in the Nation. We have rivers, lakes, and woodlands in abundance. In the Chattooga we have one of the finest examples of clean, free-flowing, unspoiled mountain streams to be found anywhere. By including the Chattooga in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems the Congress can protect the magnificent river and surrounding area from any actions that would disturb the present setting.

In a 50-mile stretch between Cashiers, N.C., and Lake Tugaloo, the elevation of the Chattooga descends at a rate of 50 feet per mile. This sharp drop makes for some of the most spectacular whitewater rapids in America. For some 40 miles the River forms the border between South Carolina—Oconee County—and Georgia.

Protection of the Chattooga has wide support among the people of my area, Mr. Speaker. We have heard from Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, people from all walks of life who love the magnificent, spectacular beauty of the South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia mountains. I am proud to be a sponsor of this bill, and urge its approval.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) that the House suspend the rule and pass the bill H.R. 9492, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating the Chattooga River, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed, H.R. 9492, immediately preceding its passage.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

BIG THICKET NATIONAL PRESERVE IN TEXAS

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 11546) to authorize the establishment of the Big Thicket National Preserve in the State of Texas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 11546

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) in order to assure the preservation, conservation, and protection of the natural, scenic, and recreational values of a significant portion of the Big Thicket area in the State of Texas and to provide for the enhancement and public enjoyment thereof, the Big Thicket National Preserve is hereby established.

(b) The Big Thicket National Preserve (hereafter referred to as the "preserve") shall include the units generally depicted on the map entitled "Big Thicket National Preserve", dated November 1973 and numbered NBR-BT 91,027 which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, District