

TEXAS PANHANDLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Amarillo, Texas
August 16, 1966

"In the Grand Canyon, Arizona has a natural wonder which, so far as I know, is in kind absolutely unparalleled throughout the rest of the world. I want to ask you to do one thing in connection with it in your own interest and in the interest of the country -- to keep this great wonder of nature as it now is. I was delighted to learn of the wisdom of the Santa Fe railroad people in deciding not to build their hotel on the brink of the Canyon. I hope you will not have a building of any kind, not a summer cottage, a hotel or anything else, to mar the wonderful grandeur, the sublimity, the great loveliness and beauty of the Canyon. Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it. What you can do is to keep it for your children, your children's children, and for all who come after you, as one of the great sights which every American if he can travel at all should see. We have gotten past the stage, my fellow citizens, when we are to be pardoned if we treat any part of our country as something to be skinned for two or three years for the use of the present generation, whether it be the forest, the water, the scenery. Whatever it is, handle it so that your children's children will get the benefit of it."

Section 1: "The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

These two statements set forth most eloquently and succinctly the case ~~for the preservation of the Grand Canyon National Park and Monument~~ from the proposed building of the Marble Gorge and Bridge Canyon dams on the Lower Colorado River. The former was made by Theodore Roosevelt and gives the ethics of the case, and the latter is from the National Parks Act and gives the law of the case.

H. R. 4671 will more than likely be decided on the floor of the U. S. House of Representatives before the end of August. It will only be by the expressions of millions of voices that the bill will be defeated. We urge you to write or wire Rep. Walter Rogers and Rep. Joe Pool now, voicing your opposition to this bill. A short letter will do. If you prefer, you can send a 15-word public opinion telegram for 93 cents. The President should know how you feel, too.

The issue is too great, not only for the Grand Canyon but for all National Parks, to let this bill appear without your opposition.

Thank you,

Kenneth D. Seyffert
Conservation Committee Chairman
Texas Panhandle Audubon Society