

You and Your Izaak Walton League



By: A. D. Sutherland

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Ripon College AB 1913 — Pi Kappa Delta, Theta Sigma Tau

Principal of High School

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Officer 10th Infantry World War I, resigned as Major.

Member of the Bar, Supreme Court of the United States, Court of Claims, Tax Court, U. S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit Court, and other courts.

Director, vice-president of executive board, and honorary president of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Author of "60 Years Afield and Observations on Conservation".

Who's Who in Wisconsin

During the more than 50 years of the Wisconsin Division of the Izaak Walton League of America much has been accomplished for the benefit of all of our people. Al Sutherland has been active in the League for all of these years and has summarized many of the League's activities. He has been a chapter president, a state division president, a national director, vice president, member of the executive board, and honorary president of the Izaak Walton League of America. I hope you will find the following well worth reading and studying.

May we continue to get lasting benefits to preserve our necessary soil, water, air and forests.

With best wishes,

Art Freiheit,
President, Wisconsin Division
Izaak Walton League of America.

I have been requested to write concerning activities of the Izaak Walton League and my personal experiences with conservation problems. It is hoped that the following will show how results were obtained.

In 1954 I received a letter from the Nash Motor Company asking if I would come to Washington to receive an award for outstanding achievements in conservation. I replied that if the award was to be used in advertising I was not interested. In reply it was stated that a committee of national authorities on conservation had chosen me to receive a national non-professional conservation award, and no advertising was involved.

I went to Washington where the award was presented at a banquet in the Statler Hotel, attended by about five hundred people from all over the United States.

In 1957 I attended a convention of the Izaak Walton League of America in Washington D.C. I had been national director, vice-president, and member of the executive board for a number of years. At the convention my time was taken with various committees and I knew little about what went on on the floor. When I returned home I read in the local paper that I was elected honorary president of the League. I appreciated this because men like Herbert Hoover, Lawrence Rockefeller, Arthur Godfrey, and Preston Bradley had been so honored.

In 1951 I received the diamond pin Broughton Award of the State Division of the Izaak Walton League. In 1966 I received the La Budde Award. In 1971 I received an award from Ripon College for outstanding work in conservation.

In 1973 the University of Wyoming requested my clippings and other material on conservation to file in their library. I sent on most of what I had. They acknowledged receipt of 467 newspaper clippings and twenty-six talks I had given on conservation before various organizations, together with my book 'Sixty Years Afield and Observations on Conservation'. They made copies of the material.

In 1974 the local Kiwanis Club entered my name in its book of 'Golden Deeds'.

I humbly acknowledge these awards and recognition in behalf of many of the 50,000 members of the Izaak Walton League who unselfishly gave their time and joined in getting results of lasting benefits for all our people.

My interest in conservation started in the 1920 period. A number of people employed me to stop the pollution of our river by a tannery that poured the scrapings of fat, meat, and hair into the Fond du Lac River. During hot spells in summer the odors from decomposed flesh were so strong that people could not open their windows.

I wrote the company that it would have to stop polluting the river, or I would force them to do so by a court order. They replied that if they could not use the river for their refuse, they would

move out of the city. My reply was that I knew of only one thing they had to do, that was to stop polluting the river and do so promptly.

As a result the company connected their outlets with the city sewage plant which treated the waste, and the pollution by this company ended.

Several other industries were fearlessly arrested by our game warden for pollution. Since then, during spring, hundreds of boys have caught white bass in the river which at one time was so polluted that no plant or fish could live in it.

During the 1920 period I was a director, vice-president and then president, and national counselor of our local Chamber of Commerce. Its activities were of a local nature. I was convinced that the Izaak Walton League's goal was of state and national importance, so I joined the League and concentrated on conservation problems.

It was then that our local chapter accomplished a project of lasting importance to thousands of people.

Calumet Harbor was maintained by the U. S. Corps of Engineers. An individual purchased the land bordering the harbor and built a hotel and cottages for a profitable venture. As years passed, the project failed, the buildings deteriorated, and it was for sale at a low price.

Members of the local chapter raised the money among themselves to buy the property with the plan of selling it to the county at cost for a public recreation area. After the purchase we had to convince county board members that this should be done.

I remember well of riding in a two cylinder car with acetylene lamps and no stop to visit these men at night. As a result the area became a public park enjoyed by thousands of people annually.

When I was president of our local chapter we had a barbeque steak picnic at Calumet Harbor at which our governor spoke. All conservation clubs had stands that sold soft-drinks. The governor boarded a yacht in Fond du Lac and was joined by many other yachts from all around the lake. With pennants flying they arrived at Calumet Harbor where they were greeted by the military band. So many people came that the cow pastures were filled with parked cars and the roads for more than a mile were lined with cars.

In 1941 when I was state president of the League we discussed the growing number of no-trespassing signs that appeared in the southern half of Wisconsin. It was evident that before long the public would have no place for recreation in this area.

We proposed a public hunting ground program and I drafted a simple bill that would earmark 50 cents of all hunting licenses for the purchase of hunting grounds and their maintenance. Our local senator introduced the bill. I corresponded with officers of other chapters of the League and

four hundred conservation clubs, urging their support. As a result the bill was passed unanimously, and ours became the first public hunting ground program in the United States.

When I was president of the local chapter of the Izaak Walton League, officers of the county conservation clubs were members of our chapter and attended our meetings. It was agreed that Eldorado Marsh, consisting of about one thousand acres, should be purchased and preserved with the money. The result was the establishment of the Eldorado Marsh public hunting grounds.

In the 1930 period the Horicon chapter with Curley Radtke as its leader proposed that Horicon marsh, consisting of thousands of acres, be restored and opened to the public.

The history of Horicon marsh is well known. At one time the Bock River was dammed to form a lake and steamboats made regular trips to different landings.

A group of real estate promoters conceived the idea of draining the marsh and to sell small parcels of land for the purpose of raising vegetables. Thus, the conflict between private motives versus public benefits became the issue as in nearly all conservation problems.

They succeeded in draining the land and planted areas with onions and other produce to demonstrate how they would grow on peat land. I remember seeing some of these fields. These lands were sold to many gullible people and crops grew abundantly for several years. When the peat nutrition was ended vast areas became wasteland.

Curley Radtke and the state division started a state-wide campaign to have the State of Wisconsin purchase the land in order to restore water levels for wild fowl and the public. I took part in a small way together with many other members of the League. The result was the state and federal governments' creation of the present Horicon Marsh which is nationally known.

It was during this period that the Milwaukee chapter believed that the area known as Kettle Moraine should be preserved for the public. A group of people had purchased the area around Mauthe Lake and sold it to the state. Ray Zellmer was active in the Milwaukee chapter and led in a State Izaak Walton League project to purchase all these lands. He was an avid geologist who spent vacations in the mountain areas of the west and he walked up and down through the glacial deposit area of Kettle Moraine. At different times I took part in the efforts to purchase these lands. The result was the passage of a law appropriating a small part of the forestry money for its purchase. Thousands of acres were acquired which have been enjoyed by millions of people.

As time elapsed land values made startling increases. The appropriation under the law was not sufficient to purchase the desired land to extend fifty miles in the eastern most heavily populated part of the state.

The Milwaukee chapter of the League interested its congressman Henry Reuss in obtaining federal funds to make further purchases. When he introduced his bill it received surprising opposition from congressmen representing real estate developers. Our local congressman, a republican, was one of the leaders of the opposition. I was unsuccessful in trying to convince him that the public welfare was more important than that of a few developers.

Shortly he was opposed in the election by a democrat candidate who publicly supported the League's program. Members of the League made the issues well known, and the republican incumbent was defeated.

The Hon. Henry Reuss, a staunch conservationist, was successful in having his bill passed and signed by the President, and the program of acquisition has steadily progressed.

In 1955 the legislature of our state by unprecedented action disrupted the program. In the morning of the last session a bill was introduced in the Assembly to transfer one square mile of the northern section of the Kettle Moraine to the Department of Public Welfare. Under suspension of the rules and without public hearing, the bill was passed and sent to the Senate. That afternoon the bill was passed by the Senate and signed by the governor.

Jerry Cutts of Stevens Point was then State President of the State Division of the Izaak Walton League which authorized him to take legal action. The case became known as Jerry Cutts and Raymon J. Zillmer vs. Department of Public Welfare. The circuit court held the act valid and an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court. When Ray became ill he asked me to continue.

I argued that the money appropriated was for the sole purpose of buying and preserving the area, and it should not be used for reformatories and the like. The Supreme Court in a landmark decision said that the statute and constitutional amendment were ambiguous because they said that the money was to be used for forests and not specific areas, hence the legislature had the power to dispose of it as it saw fit. The opinion concluded with a warning that only the public through their representatives in Madison can prevent further dispositions.

During 1948 and 1949, when I was president of the state division of the Izaak Walton League, it was decided that something should be done about the pollution of public waters. A committee of five people with James Spindler as chairman was appointed. James Spindler was vitally concerned because two of his boys had polio which was the result from bathing in public waters.

We had meetings once a month on different phases of the pollution problem at which the public was invited, and we made certain that the press was represented.

The first meeting was devoted to finding out where there was pollution and what waters were

affected. State agents spoke and so did many members of the League. The astounding report was that nearly all public waters in Wisconsin were too polluted to be fit for public use.

The next meeting was devoted to the legal aspects of pollution. A representative of the Attorney General and other attorneys spoke. It was pointed out that industries or cities had as much right to pour their refuse in public waters as they have to dump it on highways or the courthouse lawn.

One meeting was devoted to the health problem which was led by the State Health Officer. Other doctors spoke also.

Another meeting concerned possible remedies. Nationally known engineers and chemical experts spoke, representing their various companies. It was pointed out that from a scientific point of view there was no excuse for pollution.

At the conclusion of the meetings we found that in 1913, as part of the fish and game law, a law was passed making it a criminal offense to put into public waters any refuse deleterious to plant or fish life. Its enforcement was in the hands of the politically appointed conservation commission, and game wardens arrested men who caught more fish than the law allowed, but did nothing about polluters who killed thousands of fish annually.

We found that by statute a pollution commission had been existing for years. Members of the commission were the heads of different departments of the government which took all their time, and little was done to stop pollution.

We concluded there should be a full-time director with ample funds to hire experts who could locate the source of pollution and recommend ways to correct the problems. The director was to be employed by a commission composed of the heads of state agencies.

Because the law prohibiting pollution of navigable waters had not been enforced, it seemed reasonable to give the polluter time to correct his violations. Under the proposed bill the enforcement agencies should consider the financial and engineering problems involved, after hearing all parties. The proposal then would empower the agency with authority to set a time limit given for compliance. The director and the committee were to have full power to enter orders. If not obeyed, a penalty of up to \$1,000 per day was to be imposed.

With this in mind I drafted a bill. It provided that the director had the power to conduct hearings after notifying the polluter. These hearings were to be public.

The bill was introduced in the senate. Because of the state-wide publicity given our hearings, the bill was to be heard by both conservation committees of the assembly and senate. A date was set for the hearing to be held in the assembly room.

The Manufacturers' Association sent a letter to all its members urging them to attend and 'so pin back the ears of the fanatical Izaak Walton League fishermen that they would never again attempt to change the law'.

At the hearing the room was packed. Members of the League came from all parts of the State. The chairman announced that the opposition would be heard first. Representatives of the C.I.O. and A.F.L. unions told about how factories would have to close if the bill was passed and thousands of workers would be unemployed.

One representative, a doctor of the Federated Women's Club, said that the health danger of pollution was insignificant and the bill should not be passed. A representative of the Department of Agriculture said farmers would lose millions of dollars because cheese factories would have to be closed. A noted authority on water law ridiculed the legal aspects of the bill and said whoever wrote the bill had no conception of the meaning of pollution.

All afternoon we listened to speakers against the bill. We were given but a few minutes to reply.

I said the attorney who was chairman of the state pollution committee for years said "whoever wrote this bill has no conception of the definition of pollution". My reply was, "I wrote this bill and the definition of pollution is copied from the statute and you wrote this definition." I turned to him and thought he would have a stroke.

As to the argument of the paper mills that they could not afford to put in abatement machinery, I quoted from their financial statements showing net earnings after taxes of millions of dollars, and I pointed out that the cost could be spread over several years.

V. J. Muench of Green Bay effectively spoke on the problem and James Spindler dwelt on the health aspects from personal experience; however, it seemed that every organization of the state was opposed to our bill.

Upon returning to the office I called the president of the Federated Women's Club and told her what was said. She was astounded because their directors had voted unanimously to support the bill, and said she would tell their lobbyists to so inform each member of the legislature.

I talked to the state president of the American Federation of Labor about how a representative of this organization opposed the bill. He replied that the A.F.L. had voted to support the bill and their lobbyists would contact each member of the legislature and state its position.

I then called the state president of the C.I.O. union. He said there was to be a meeting of all officers on a given date and invited me to come and explain the bill, which I did. After a full discussion it was recommended that the bill be adopted and their lobbyists were to inform each member of the legislature.

I talked with the president and secretary of the State Chamber of Commerce, of which I was a charter member, and explained the bill. They promised that at the next directors' meeting they would urge support of the bill.

Then we sent letters to the officers of the four hundred conservation clubs in Wisconsin and all Izaak Walton League chapters, asking them to personally contact their assemblymen and senators and assembly and the governor, whom I had talked to previously, signed the bill.

I gave talks before different organizations in the state explaining the pollution problem which was reported statewide by the press.

About one month later I met our state senator who told me he had never before known of such a change of sentiment in Madison. All who were at first opposed to the bill were now for it. When a vote was taken our bill passed unanimously in the senate and assembly and the governor whom I had talked to previously signed the bill.

It was gratifying to know that the Interior Department sent letters together with a copy of our bill to all state agencies and recommended similar action.

During the 1960 period Congress enacted a law creating a bureau to establish water quality standards. This meant the employment of many people who were to test water throughout the U.S. in order to point out the sources of pollution. It was obvious that the public could see and smell all of these sources of pollution, and it appeared that the politicians gave the impression that Congress was finally doing something.

In 1965 the Supreme Court of the United States declared a law valid which was passed by Congress in 1898 and made it a criminal offense for any industry to put refuse in navigable waters. At the national convention of the Izaak Walton League held in Milwaukee in 1967 I spoke on this subject and pointed out that had this law been enforced there would be no pollution by industries. I further announced that by the act of Congress any person could complain to a U.S. attorney of any industry that was polluting navigable waters. In case a fine was imposed that person could receive one-half of the fine. Chapters that needed financing had a golden opportunity of not only accomplishing our conservation goal but also to replenish their finances. Since then I have noted that fines of up to \$200,000 have been imposed by federal courts upon complaints by ardent conservationists.

The President of the United States ordered the Corps of Engineers to require all known polluters to file statements as to the kind and quantity of refuse put in navigable waters. This again gives the public the impression that the President is doing something about the problem. However, state agencies were to enforce the law and put an end to pollution but they have accomplished little.

It is important to know that the pollution law of 1898 still stands.

In 1950 the building of dams that destroyed the natural condition of streams became an acute problem for the Izaak Walton League. More than twelve hundred dams had damaged the beauty of these rivers. My friend, V. J. Muench, who was then state president of the League, and I both fished for trout and over the years we saw what was being done.

One day V. J. called me and said there was to be a hearing before the public service commission. A power company had applied for a permit and he wanted to know what the League should do. I told him that the League had consistently opposed the destruction of our streams and he should attend the hearing. I also told him that a law had been passed that gave county boards the power to approve the construction of dams, and if they did, the public service commission must grant a permit. I dictated somewhat the following to him. Enter an appearance as state president of the Izaak Walton League, oppose the granting of the permit because the county board law was unconstitutional, and that the public's right to these waters in their natural state was more important than the rights of a power company.

V. J. did this and the name of the case that became known throughout the United States was V. J. Muench, President of the State Division of the Izaak Walton League vs. Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

The examiner ruled that he could not pass on the constitutionality of a law and recommended to the full commission that the permit be granted. Then we appealed to the full commission for a review. I submitted briefs and argued that the county board law was invalid. The commission ruled that it could not pass on the constitutionality of a law. It was then necessary to apply to the circuit court in Dane County to reverse this ruling. I again argued the public right and the unconstitutionality of the law. The circuit judge held the law valid and that the permit be granted.

The Izaak Walton League appealed to the Supreme Court. In the meantime I urged the governor to direct the Attorney General to intervene as a party and join with the League. In the Supreme Court, the State by the Attorney General moved to be a party and he filed a brief.

I again argued and submitted an extensive brief on the question of public rights and the constitutionality of the county board law. Justice George Currie wrote a masterpiece on public rights as opposed to private rights and declared the county board law void.

The Supreme Court then directed the Public Service Commission to make findings as to public rights and, if in its judgment, they were more important than the private rights it should deny the permit. This entailed another hearing in which the Attorney General joined in opposing the grant-

ing of the permit. The commission decided that the public rights as defined by the Supreme Court were more important and denied the permit.

Shortly V. J. called again and said he had received notice of a hearing before the Federal Power Commission on an application of a power company for a permit and he wanted to know how to proceed. I told him to go to Washington at the League's expense and enter an appearance as he had done before. He should also object in writing to the granting of the permit for the state agency had ruled that the public's rights outweighed private interests and that the Federal Power Commission had no jurisdiction over waters wholly within Wisconsin. This he did.

The Attorney General also appeared and filed objections and examined witnesses over a period of several days. The hearing was before an examiner who recommended that the permit be granted. This required an appeal to the full Federal Power Commission. This was duly taken and extensive briefs were filed by both the League and the Attorney General. The full commission denied the permit.

The power company then appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals. By extensive briefs prepared by the State and myself and the power company, the issue was again re-argued. This court affirmed the ruling of the Power Commission and thus the beautiful Namekagon River was saved.

During these proceedings the power company was represented by two law firms. I give these details to illustrate the importance of the League's part and how it can effectively protect public rights. The League was able to pay the travel expenses and printing bills, which no other group would have done.

In the above case the La Budde chapter of the League rendered a most valuable service by taking pictures of the area and giving publicity to the damage that would be done to this natural resource.

My interest in dams dates back to the 1920 period. A client of mine was chairman of the Conservation Commission and at one time I told him about the construction of a dam at Caldron Falls on the Pestigo River, which was then my favorite stream, and how I enjoyed the roaring rapids. I suggested that if the State owned the lands bordering rapids, no dams could be built. Shortly he invited me to a meeting of the commission where I was asked to explain the problem. The result was that the Goodman Lumber Company gave to the state a large area on both sides of the Pestigo River where a park was established.

The state division repeatedly urged the commission to acquire these strategic sites to no avail. The influence of power companies and real estate developers was obvious.

Another problem on a national level concerned the misuse of soil. Our government bought surplus

farm products when the market price fell below a given parity. This surplus was stored in bins throughout the nation. Its cost to the government was about five billion dollars per year. But worse than that was the effect on the soil. As landowners knew they would get a guaranteed price, they proceeded to cultivate all available areas. During dry spells the wind swept the plain states and the top soil was blown away. I remember well driving across a field in Montana and saw its ground covered with pebbles. The banker with me said this had been one of the most productive fields, but because it had been cultivated each year the wind left nothing but the stones. This was the fate of about one million acres in the plain states.

In the east, areas of timber and brush were cut to get more land for crops and the rain washed the top soil down the hills.

One Illinois chapter of the League conceived of a remedy. The general idea was that land should be planted with grass and trees that would hold the soil. Landowners were to be paid an average production price per acre if they agreed to the plan, which later became known as the 'soil bank program'.

The proposal was approved by the Illinois state division and became the main topic at the national convention in Iowa. Representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior and of large farm organizations gave their view. I was chairman of the resolutions committee and all were invited to express their views.

We concluded that if about sixty million acres were taken out of production there would be no surplus. It was estimated that payments to landowners would save the taxpayers about three billion dollars per year. It would enrich the soil and prevent erosion. Our committee drafted a resolution recommending the program which was passed unanimously at the convention.

I was appointed chairman of the committee to put the plan into effect. Other members of the committee were authorities in different areas of the questions involved. To get results required an act of Congress. We had the support of the Farm Bureau and the Grange, our largest farm organizations.

In the course of time we had assembled and agreed upon facts and figures and presented the proposal to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval. The secretary finally endorsed the proposal in general principles.

A bill was drafted to carry out the 'soil bank program' and was introduced. As expected, it received the violent opposition of manufacturers of farm machinery and producers of fertilizers. With ample money they employed lobbyists who claimed that the bill would bankrupt many companies and cause wide-spread unemployment. Again members of the League throughout the United States did their part. By letters we urged

all chapters to join the fight. The response was most effective. The bill was passed and signed by the president. However, the law limited retirement to only about thirty million acres. At subsequent sessions the acreage was increased until it met our estimate of sixty million acres.

One feature of the 'soil bank program' has proved advantageous. The government could decline to make payments at the end of any year and restore to production any amount of acreage necessary to meet our needs.

The youth program of the state division of the Izaak Walton League has received a deserved national commendation. Pearl Pohl, who has been president of the La Budde Women's Chapter and a director of the state division of the League for many years, started a program of educating the youth in the need for a recognition of the wise use of our natural resources.

Different chapters of the League sponsored worthy high school students. These candidates attended a day course concerning the objectives of the League. These courses were conducted by professors and other authorities on conservation problems. So many attended that it was necessary to hold these courses in two different cities within easy driving distance for the children.

Hundreds have benefitted and will go out as future leaders in the conservation movement.

In 1942 when I was president of the State Division of the Izaak Walton League, Julius Heil was governor and sought re-election for a second term.

He announced that he proposed to abolish the Conservation Commission and substitute his own commission. This proposal was in direct conflict with the principles of the League, for the Conservation Commission was the result of a state-wide campaign of the League under the leadership of William Aberg in 1927 when Wisconsin had a politically appointed director of conservation; and the League believed that the administration of conservation should be non-political and for the interests of all the people.

During the early part of 1942, the director, H. W. MacKenzie, was arbitrarily discharged by the commission without a hearing. The League, by its directors, passed a resolution demanding that he be given a hearing and stated that such action destroyed confidence in the administration of conservation.

Orlando Loomis, formerly Attorney General of Wisconsin, was opposing Governor Heil in the campaign for governor. He explained his support for a non-political commission and I invited him to speak at the annual state meeting of the League, which he did.

The controversy became the most important issue of the campaign, with the League on one side and the governor in opposition. Columns were printed in newspapers throughout the state.

When the governor publicly stated that the League would have to come to him with bended knees and a white flag, the press gave ever increasing space to what I did and said.

The governor had offered to publicly debate the issue with me. I replied that I would agree to do this at any time or place he named, and if he did not agree within ten days I would know he was bluffing. This was carried in the press.

The governor replied through the press that he did not intend to engage in any public debate. He wrote me a letter saying, in substance, that he had no controversy with the Izaak Walton League I replied as follows:

June 12, 1942

Dear Governor:

In your letter of June 10 you state that you have no controversy with the Izaak Walton League or its membership. When you take the stand that you have in regard H. W. MacKenzie and for the abolition of the Conservation Commission, your program clashes with that of the Izaak Walton League. You have made the controversy. The position of the Izaak Walton League is clear and has been well known for many years. We have reiterated our position in a resolution handed to you and to all members of the commission on May 25, 1942. The Izaak Walton League stands for:

1. Fair play in all matters pertaining to conservation in Wisconsin.
2. A no-partisan administration of conservation affairs in Wisconsin.

We have stated in no uncertain terms that the discharge of a faithful public servant without notice and without a hearing is not fair play and we have demanded that H. W. MacKenzie as director be reinstated and that if there are any charges to make that such charges be presented and a hearing held in accordance with the American way of handling public affairs.

We have always insisted and still insist that the administration of conservation affairs in Wisconsin be removed from politics.

If you want no controversy with the Izaak Walton League, you should immediately cause H. W. MacKenzie to be reinstated; and secondly, refrain from your repeated hampering and hindering tactics in regard to a department in which hundreds of thousands of our sportsmen have a direct interest. The resolution by our directors has now been approved by hundreds of sportsmen's groups and I am merely stating the position which all fair-minded conservationists are taking in regard to your acts in conservation matters in Wisconsin.

You publicly propose that the present commission be abolished and that the Supreme Court appoint new commissioners. Permit me to suggest as a member of the bar that by such a plan you would willfully involve our Supreme Court in a political turmoil and that such would be con-

trary to all concepts of our American form of government. The judiciary must remain free from such acts as would cause them to become involved in political activities outside of their own sphere

May we again repeat our demand that in the interest of fair play, you take immediate action along the foregoing lines?

Sincerely,

A. D. Sutherland

This letter was published in full by newspapers.

Editorials in newspapers supported the position of the League. Many other organizations joined in supporting our position. The result was that Orlando Loomis was elected by a plurality of 165,000 votes.

I refer to the above to point out that the issue of conservation for the best interests of all the people transcends party lines.

According to the press, the governor said that the League was the most effective political group that walked in shoe leather.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower said in a message to the State Division of the Izaak Walton League:

"The work and accomplishments of the Wisconsin Division of the Izaak Walton League are of a great and lasting benefit to the State of Wisconsin and to the people of the nation."

President Herbert Hoover said of the Izaak Walton League:

"The Izaak Walton League has become the greatest force in the country for the protection and development of opportunities for outdoor life.

"As our people increase in numbers and in leisure, we must have stimulation to health, and above all the moral value that comes from association with nature.

"Every member of the League is a future soldier in our ranks fighting an organized battle for this vital thing in the nation."

A. D. Sutherland

The Wisconsin Waltonian

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