

July 19, 1954

IN RE: FRESH WATER FISH & GAME COMMISSION - ALCAZAR HOTEL, MIAMI

I departed from West Palm Beach with Truman Padgett, Ray Rotenberger and Porter Yaun at 4:45 a.m., arriving in Miami at 8:20 a.m. We attended the meeting of the Fresh Water Fish and Game Commission in the Alcazar Hotel.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mr. Miller Joiner, Chairman, with about 100 people attending, including representatives from various sportsmen's clubs throughout Florida. Counties represented were Hillsborough, Volusia, Indian River, St. Lucie, Dade, Broward, Collier, Lee, Orange, Pasco and several others. The Air Boat Conservation Club of Palm Beach County was the only Palm Beach County club represented.

It was an interesting meeting with discussion on conservation areas, dates for opening and closing of the hunting season. The taking of alligators (six feet and over) except in Dade, Broward, Martin and Palm Beach counties, was allowed, including Lake Okechobee proper which was open to the taking of alligators with the rest of the State.

The taking of dove was allowed at staggered dates, but state-wide at the same time. The open season on deer was extended to an additional twenty days and this made hunting for all game at the same time more uniform, which we liked.

The Air Boat permit and number ruling of the Commission was changed to read All motor boats, sea skiffs, sleds, swamp boats, air boats, boats propelled by air propeller must have a permit while fishing, hunting, or hunting alongside of said air boats; transporting fishermen, hunters or game and fish. This rule was within the limits of the Commission to regulate fish and game. DeWitt spoke on this and informed the Commission and the

audience that this was acceptable to the Air Boat clubs, stating, however, that outboards and other boats violated game laws as well as rules to navigation and that he could not see why the air boat was singled out as the principle boat to be restricted or identified. He said he was informed that the commission could not enforce the rule on outboards since there was so many of them and the Commission did not have enough Wildlife officers to check on them. However, he said that he felt he had made his point in letting all know that the Air Boat owner and operator was not the only one who got out of line.

Dr. Wiber of the Florida Wildlife Federation and several of its officers were present and favored the Air Boatmens' plea.

Mr. Padgett, Mr. Rotenberger and Mr. Yaun will report in person to the Club and the Secretary, DeWitt Upthegrove, will make a more detailed report at the August 12th meeting.

DeWitt Upthegrove
Secretary

Approved - August 12th.