

The Honorable Commissioner's Court of Sabine County, Texas, met in regular session on January 25, 1954, at the Courthouse in Hemphill, with all members of the Court present, to-wit: O. A. Beauchamp, County Judge, H. H. Byley, Commr. Precinct #1, W. T. Love, Commr. Precinct #2, Paul Lout, Commr. Precinct #3, Earl Smith, Commr. Precinct #4 and Kyle D. Walker, Clerk of the Court.

The Court passed the following resolution:

Whereas, the public press of this State has carried news of the formation of a Committee by the East Texas Chamber of Commerce to work for the enactment by the U. S. Congress of legislation which would force the U. S. Government to dispose of its lands and properties in various States by sale to private interests; and,

WHEREAS, such legislation would result in the sale, primarily to private lumber interests, of the Sabine National Forest in Sabine County by the Federal Government; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Government, through the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture is preserving and developing this great natural resource in our County for posterity by scientific cutting methods and reforestation policies, as well as fire protection; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Government, at no expense to Sabine County has built and maintains a 96 mile system of roads and is continuing to build roads needed for access to the timber in our National Forest Area; and

WHEREAS, this great recreational area of 111,997 acres in Sabine County abounds in game, with free campsites as well as creeks and river banks, and with a 17 acre lake and recreation area maintained by the Forest Service, and further, through cooperation with the Texas Game and Fish Commission maintains the Moore Wildlife Recreation Area for the betterment of hunting in this area; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government payed, in lieu of taxes to Sabine County and to School Districts in the National Forest Area in this county, 14 times as much money last year out of sales of timber as the County and School District would have received in taxes if the Forest were owned by private lumber companies; and

WHEREAS, the timber being scientifically harvested from the Sabine National Forest, now amounting to 16 million board feet annually in this County, is sold by bid, thus allowing both profitable enterprise plus full employment to large lumber companies on one hand and providing an independent means of livelihood to many small sawmill owners, loggers and logging contractors on the other; which latter individuals would lose a large part of their

opportunity to make an independent living should the land be sold to private lumber companies;
and,

WHEREAS, the best interest of Sabine County and its citizens would be served by the preservation of the National Forest resource by the Federal Government, with its many great benefits assured to continue in perpetuity:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF SABINE COUNTY:

That we urge our Congressman, Hon. Jack Brooks and our U. S. Senators Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson and Hon. Price Daniel, to oppose to their utmost any legislative proposal which would seek to dispose of our National Forests to private interests.

Accounts were allowed by the Court as are shown by the Minutes of "Accounts Allowed".

There being no further business court adjourned.

County Judge

H. H. Byler

Commissioner Precinct #1

W. T. Lane

Commissioner Precinct #2

Paul Lent

Commissioner Precinct #3

Earl Smith

Commissioner Precinct #4

Attest:

H. D. Walker
Clerk of the Court.