How To Win Friends And Influence Enemies

Corridor H Finally Does It

Shakers Fork Fate

EPA To Decide

Voice

Highlands

The

HOW THE POLICY WORKS. How dye is spread, divided and burned upon the ground. On the left, the dye (in red) is applied to the cotton. On the right, the cotton is spread over the ground and the dye is burned off. (Photo by John F. Kennedy Jr.)
Overlook
by Bob Burrell

This month we are making observations from the galleries of the U.S. House of Representatives. We are taking a close look at how West Virginia's elected representatives voted on environmental issues in 1973.

It was a big year, the worst for conservationists. The politics had a field day blaming the energy shortages on environmentalists. But interestingly enough, a Gallup poll taken revealed that only a piddling 2% of the public agreed with them. Most people blamed the oil companies or the government.

There is a group in Washington called the League of Conservation Voters who make it their business to keep tabs on all Congressmen regarding how they vote (indeed, if they even vote) on environmental issues. They compile all of this information in tabular form and distribute it to interested parties. What follows was extracted from their report. It is of interest that the League was most instrumental in unseating Colorado's entrenched, selfish, anti-environmentalistic Wayne Aspinall from one of the most powerful men in Congress and one of the greatest obstacles to democracy ever elected to public office. What this means is that the League is an organization to be reckoned with.

The League selected 19 of the most important House votes for their barometer. However, they advise that the records of these votes do not reflect a Congressman's total position; it is merely a tip of the iceberg which may be deceiving. His behavior in committee may be much more important than how he votes on the floor.

Among the 19 important conservation measures used to assess each Representative were:

- Atomic Energy Authorization bill which would allow states to set stronger regulations for control of radioactive wastes and emissions and reprocessing of nuclear materials.
- National Environmental Policy Act dealing with pesticide controls.
- Alaska Pipeline Bill.
- Urban Mass Transportation bill amendment to delete funds necessary for urban improvement.
- National Environmental Policy Act, which tried to suspend certain air pollution regulations.
- Indoor Energy Conservation Act which would have set better standards for building construction which would save on energy consumption, and a bill to create an Energy Research and Development Administration, which sounded like a good idea, but on paper appeared to favor energy purveyors more than safety and environmentally minded groups.

The League purposely chose bills that had to do with energy so as to test Congress' claim that the energy shortage was due to the environmentalists.

The League set a "correct vote" for each of these issues on the basis of advice from leading conservationists throughout the country. In other words, a "correct vote" was one counted to be in favor of a well thought-out environmental position. As a result, Congressman, the percentage of "correct votes" (ignoring absences) was calculated from which was subtracted 2 points for every absence. The purpose was to hold members accountable because members did not bother to show up for a vote. Unavoidable absences caused by illness and other important reasons were not counted or penalized. Here is how our team fared for the last three years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1973</th>
<th>1972</th>
<th>1971</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molloy</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staggers</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slack</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hechler</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>93</td>
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In summary, draw your own conclusions.

While we are overlooking our legislators, let's take a gander at the funny game that make up our state legislature. This was another do-nothing year for our state legislature, particularly in the environmental field. For our out of state readers, the following will give you some idea of the gravity of bills that get passed by our lawmakers.

One of the few bills of any kind that protect our environment was H. R. 8192, which would require people to get a license tag from "The Mountain State" to "Almost Heaven." We should all be thankful that the Governor used his veto power to stop that.

One of the measures before the legislature that the Conservancy had great interest in was an amendment to the Natural Streams Preservation Act. This in fact was the topic of our evening program last October at the Highlands Weekend Review. One of the bill's sponsors was present as well as the attorney who drafted the language. Early in the year, The Voice carried information concerning the bill and urged speedy hearings on it. Some of us were privileged to have a hand in the drafting of the bill. Errors were removed and through the bill's success, many volunteers alerted groups all over the state to respond, and in general great citizen input went into the bill, particularly from people in the New River Gorge Brickey County. County Courts and other official agencies went to a great deal of effort in statements about their wish to pass individual streams.

Public interest groups across the state responded similarly. With a backing like that, the bill's passage seemed imminent. But the powerful, business-oriented Senator Carl Gainer, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee deleted two important sections from the bill he had agreed to introduce, the upper Greenbrier River and Kanawha Creek. Secondly, he allowed the bill to be ruined by those who loaded it with other provisions, including a river cleaning bill which would be of great interest to private business (e.g. the Blackwater) and if left in the bill, would kill whatever chances this otherwise good bill had in passage.

In the House of Delegates, the bill's sponsors had worked to have one important stream, the South Branch of the Potomac, to place under state supervision. Delegate Blankenship of Mineral County introduced a bill to Sen. Gainer. Mr. Hauser is an unalterable supporter of exploitation of the South Branch River. He then wanted to originate West Virginia can send people to its legislature who have genuine concerns for the environment and until the parochial and anachronistic rules of this body are changed, this regional horse in the bill's sponsor were forced to withdraw the entire measure.

Thus the democratic process was essentially thwarted by only two very powerful men. Such a game is called a democracy, but is rather typical of how governing is done in Appalachia. For some reason, it has been an undemocratic tradition that the chairman of the House committee on natural resources is in a position to reward eastern panhandle. That person for years has been Mr. Hauser, who is just finishing his last term in office. Both he and his fellow Democrat, Dr. Daniel, have consistently voted against any measure towards protection of rivers. They have voted against all bills against protection of the South Branch River. Twice time have refused to help efforts against the Roundsburg Dam, and have been in favor of the Royal Glen Dam on the South Branch for years.

Perhaps West Virginia can send people to its legislature who have genuine concerns for the environment and until the parochial and anachronistic rules of this body are changed, this regional horse in the bill's sponsor were forced to withdraw the entire measure.
The Reader's Voice

To the Editor:

I was uncomfortable writing the article on Timberline because I have no experience with the land. I was basically opposed to second home developments no matter how well they are planned. I don't know how this kind of development can be halted short of public acquisition of the land or at least of scenic easements. I am under the impression that growth is considered inevitable if not desirable in most of the land use planning legislation under consideration throughout the country. There is no agreement on what environmental damage accompanying development must be contained.

I have no way of knowing for sure if Dougs' intentions are what they say they are, or if so, that it will be possible to maintain Timberline indefinitely as it is now planned. In the brief time I had for writing and submitting the article I tried to find someone qualified to look for flaws in the proposal, without success. I decided to send it in anyway thinking that just putting the plan in print should be of some value.

If the development turns out differently than promised, opponents of other developments could use the article. And if the land is being sold that it ends up in the hands of readers of the VOICE, who presumably are more concerned about the environmental quality of the Highlands than the general public?

My issue is basically against vacation homes because buildings and roads are scattered throughout rural or uninhabited lands, making them more like the urban regions from which most of us seek temporary relief. Land that was once used for the general public good—agriculture, forestry, and/or open space for recreation—is now set aside for other exclusive and narrow interests. Even if we could afford it, making lots and second homes available to every family that wants one isn't the answer. I doubt if there would be enough to go around, and still retain enough for growing food and fiber.

I don't agree that Timberline isn't as good as advertised because a clause in the deed makes it possible that the 1,800 or 2,600 acres encompassed by the development will not be reserved for the exclusive use of the purchasers of lots and their friends. Perhaps Barnett feels that the beach or some other mass recreation facility will be built. We'll have to wait and see about that. I doubt if Timberline as now planned could be a significant tourist attraction. I hope that I, who will never buy a lot there, might still be permitted to ski, ride horseback, or even hike across Timberline. Before Allegheny Properties acquired the Harman tract, we could do all these things and even hunt there.

Farmers and other permanent rural residents generally don't object to people hunting, hiking, or riding horses across their properties as long as they behave themselves. When land is subdivided and sold to urbanites, the NO TRESPASSING—NO HUNTING signs go up. The segments of the Appalachian Trail that cross private lands are in deep trouble because it has been sold for second home sites and is being closed to the public.

Please don't get me wrong. I hope other people take a good hard look at Timberline and other developments, ask embarrassing questions, and pass this on cautiously to other Highlands Conservancy members.

Helen McGinnis
Pittsburgh, PA

President's Comments

by David Elkinson

By now you may have heard that I have resigned as president of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy effective August 15. This was a hard decision because I had a number of projects and expectations I wanted to see through in the next five months, but I really had no choice.

Lands and I have been given the unusual opportunity to spend the fall semester in Wales and London studying. We both want to see as much of Europe as possible, for years, but until now that was only a dream.

For my part, I will be spending some time looking at how conservation and environmental groups get expressed and the role of citizens participation in environmental policy making. You can see a sample of Conservancy-related experience on that I am sure.

Since this will be my last column as president, I would like to take a few departing comments as I reflect upon this experience. When I was elected in January 1973, I said I believed strongly in the potential and past action of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. That belief has only been strengthened over time. While I have come to know better our organization and my personal limitations, my overall faith in our environmental commitment remains strong. The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is justly admired and supported by numerous individuals and organizations. It has provided me with an opportunity to give to the natural environment, to help make the world a better place.

For the most part the work has been exciting and educational. My regrets include my inability to do the job as well as I would have liked. I never got to the bottom of the pile of correspondence that was ever-present on my desk. I seemed too busy in the daily tasks to take adequate time to plan, reflect, and be creative as I would have liked.

But these regrets do not overshadow my very real satisfaction in having been a part of the Conservancy's accomplishments in the past two years. Like most of the Conservancy's work, a few individuals have carried out specific tasks, in most cases without requiring much direction from others in leadership. To mention but a few of these examples: The Highlands Voice under Rense Barnett's editorship has become the best source of environmental news in the state, and is well-read and appreciated. Our several issue-oriented committees continue to keep vigilant on their respective issues. Shavers Fork seems to be surviving some development. The Homochitto National Forest has had to rethink the Highland Scenic Highway and Eagle Lake, the WPA has been confronted on Bear Town, the Federal Power Commission is re-examining the Davis Power Project, the State Highway Department is facing united opposition on Corridor H, all these accomplishments have been the result of hard work by dedicated men and women. West Virginia Highlands Conservancy members and their allies. Our greatest success so far is in terms of length of struggle has been for wilderness preservation of Daily Rocks, Otter Creek, Cranberry, and Laurel Fork. If we don't fall victim to the log-jam caused by inaction in the House of Representatives, we are indeed should be fortunate. The Wilderness Bill will be passed before the end of the year.

We are a vital, energetic, and important group of citizens. From the foregoing list of highlights, we can see that we can achieve results. Of course our challenges are staggering but yet we continue to do what we can... I hope we continue to thrive, and I have every reason to believe that we will.

I hope you share that same optimism.

To my successor I already sent my congratulations. His task will be time-consuming and tedious for the most part, but I hope he derives as much satisfaction from it as I have. And I know the members of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy will support him as I did.

Thank you for letting me share my life with yours.

'Conservancy Honored By Audubon Society

At an awards banquet in June the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy was honored with the 1974 Conservation Award by the Mountain States Chapter of the National Audubon Society. The annual award, which recognizes organizations making the most outstanding contribution to conservation in West Virginia, is given to the organization to receive Montaineer's recognition.

President David Elkinson accepted the award on behalf of the Conservancy. Presented to Elkinson was a plaque entitled "Ords" by noted wildlife artist Don Allen. Also representing the Conservancy at the presentation were past president Tom King and Bob Barrell.

Previous awards from Montaineer have gone to Congressman Ken Hechler and environmental columnist Robert Lee Smith.
of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Room 322

Protesting the Strips 1974

By Ron Hersey

From The Editor
Mother Of Orphans

by Nick Zeegistzos

Nevertheless not everything is going well for AEP. Its stock has been dropping. And so far this year two electric utilities, Consolidated Edison and Virginia Electric Power (VEPCO) have had their credit rating lowered on the New York bond market, making it impossible for them to borrow new capital.

The truth may be that the wreck of externally expanding consumption on the rock of finite resources may be more clearly seen from the board room of AEP than they would like you to see from your living room. And AEP's advertising spares may be like the prodigious partying of the spendthrift who knows that tomorrow he will declare bankruptcy.

BOOK REVIEW:

"Planet Steward"

by Paul Frank

How many people have told you "You've got to read this book"... and, of course, it turns you off immediately?

Read this book.

It's "Planet Steward," the journal of the wildlife sanctuary in the Arizona mountains, and for most members of the Conservancy, it's just what we need.

In 1969, poet-editor-ecologist Stephen Levine was offered the position as caretaker of the last climax-marsh in southern Arizona. The offer came from the Nature Conservancy.

Although it's buried deep in poetic prose and flights of airy poetry (not at all the ilk of Appalachian Snow), the spirit of Planet Steward is of the same fiber that draws archetypal-sounding Mountains Blissful back to the land, back to their heritage. Out June 15 from Unity Press, PO Box 1207, Santa Cruz, C.A. 95061. Cloth in a heavy 80% paperback not too cheap $8.95, but well-bound with full-cloth illustrations.
WEST VIRGINIA GOLDBRICK TROUT
(SHARPS RIVER)

DEVELOPED BY LEGISLATIVE CONCERN, INC.

I've seen mud suckers before, but there's something fishy about this one.
This Cheek

Foot Tip

Chaat Valley

The Voice
Do Not Support Your Local Strip Mine

The following is a list of strip mining applications received by the Department of Natural Resources during the last month. Check the list carefully. If there is an application in your county or in an area you know well, get out your topo maps, find out what streams these mines would cross, what features disrupt the streams belong to, and protest the hell out of the application on the basis of stream utilization. If you happen to know that the company involved has a lousy mining or reclamation record, or is of the fly-by-night variety, point it out in your protest. Send your protests to Mrs. Latimer, Director, DNR, Room 223, 1850 Washington St. W., Charleston, WV 25304. Latimer will never see it, but your protest will be entered in a file concerning the permit. If you can generate more than one protest to any particular application you may well hold up the operation until taxes come due at which time the company may take flight and save all of our problems. Be sure to mention the SMA number in your protest.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED JULY 22, 1974

SMA 1212 - A & B Coal Co., 30 acres, Princeton, Pender County, Pendleton County, Grant County, Tucker County, Boone County, Logan County, Randolph County, Pocahontas County, Harpers Ferry District.

Tourism State's Biggest Industry

by Edward Feeks (Carleton Gazette)

Travel sales dollars have a greater impact on West Virginia's economy than dollars from coal mining or chemicals. This conclusion is drawn in a study by Dr. James Howard, professor of Business Research at West Virginia University under a re-search grant from the State Department of Commerce. Only 1.3 per cent of travel industry receipts leave the state to buy supplies and services, or to provide payment on loans. The remaining 98.7 per cent points out. This is in striking contrast to the 33.8 per cent of coal mining receipts, and the 37.2 per cent of chemical industry receipts which go out of state.

The travel and tourism industry is big business in the Mountain State. Latest complete figures show that in 1972 this business generated about $440 million in direct sales revenues, of which $408 million came from travelers staying away from home one or more nights. The sum brought the total impact of travel activity in the state to about $650 million, or slightly more than 10 per cent of total personal income in the state.

Travel sales dollars employ 13,600 people, or 1 out of every 12 workers in West Virginia, the report notes. This ratio is about the same for underground coal mining and compares with a 1 to 3 ratio for the chemical industry, which employs 6.4 per cent of the work force not engaged in agriculture.

Most travelers to West Virginia come from the Mid-Atlantic Region. But almost as many travel from the Ohio River Valley and from the North Central Region, a very important finding. This shows that most of the existing travel market is localized in nearby areas and should not be erroniously affected by the gasoline problem, says Revel- lard.

A Supplement To The Hiking Guide?

The Conservancy's new Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest, prepared by Brady Smythe- quist, is now available and fills a real need. However, many guides to hikers must go beyond mere, more than just a description of each trail in the national forest—they want our recommendations on the most scenic and interesting circuit hikes. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club publishes an excellent booklet, Circuit Trails in the Shenandoah National Park, which does just that for the Monongahela. Each hike is described on one page with a detailed chart of the trail on the back page. The booklet is complete in itself and can be used without reference to anything else but a road map.

Beyond helping hikers enjoy themselves in the highlands, the booklet will have two conservation purposes. First, it will get more people away from the roads into the woods, where they will have time to see for themselves the environmental consequences of clearcutting, strip mining up stream, new roads, off-road vehicles and other phenomena not admirably described by a trail map alone. Second, it should help divert people from the four proposed wilderness areas.

If you wouldn't mind sharing some of your favorite hikes with others, please tell me about them. Here are the criteria: it must be a hike that you can complete in one day, and the trail or roads must be well marked or obvious to people who are not skilled outdoorsmen. If a trip to the proposed wilderness areas will be possible, it can be no more than six to eight miles. If the hike will be described in the booklet, it will be necessary to write up detailed trail descriptions. For overnight trips, leave me notes for back- pack hikers.

Helen McElhiney
P.O. Box 47
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