

# Albuquerque Game Association Enters Fishing Rights Debate

The controversy between the Quay County Game Protective Association, some citizens of Tucuman, northeastern New Mexico and part of the Texas Panhandle, and the Bell Ranch interests, on whose lands most of the water backed up by the Conchas Dam is impounded, has come into the spotlight again. The Albuquerque Game Protective Association has passed a resolution endorsing and commending the stand of the state game commission and opposing the request of the Quay County organization that the governor force the commission to resign.

The Quay County organization and its supporters have requested the Bell Ranch interests to open a majority of the Conchas Dam Lake and shoreline for fishing and picnicking. The ranch owners refused. The Quay County group

then petitioned Gov. J. J. Dempsey to file suit against the ranch owners and the governor ordered the state attorney to file the suit, which is pending.

Petition of the Quay County association included the phrase, "we request the Honorable John J. Dempsey, governor of the state of New Mexico, to immediately abolish the game refuge on the Canadian part of the Conchas Lake." The Albuquerque association claims the action would mean the dismissal of the game commission which has steadfastly refused the Quay County group's petitions.

The Albuquerque Game Protective Association recently appointed a committee composed of State Senator Don L. Dickason, Hugh B. Woodward and Arthur L. Welch, to make a complete study of the questions involved in the contro-

versy between the Quay County organization, the Bell Ranch interests and the state game commission.

The committee presented a nine-page report to the Albuquerque association and after lengthy study the association adopted a resolution in which it declined to endorse the resolution of the Quay County Game Protective Association and, on the contrary, recommended to Governor Dempsey that the actions and policy of the state game commission with reference to the management of fish and fishing at Conchas Dam be approved and sustained.

The resolution also stated that the association disapproved action of the Quay association in seeking to overrule the state game commission's action; of seeking to force the state game commission to change its policy and regulations; of soliciting support for their resolution upon the basis of erroneous statements of fact.

The resolution approved and commended the diligence and wisdom of the state game warden, Elliott S. Barker and his members; expressed appreciation and thanks to the Bell Ranch interests for its generosity in voluntarily granting recreational rights on 15 square miles of water area and in giving the state 639 acres of land and shore line for camping and fishing; and commended governors who have maintained the integrity of the state game commission as an independent and non-political board.



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