

OFFICE OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

July 13, 1966

Mr. Claude R. Kirk
Republican Gubernatorial Candidate
San Juan Hotel
Orlando, Florida

Dear Mr. Kirk:

As you are aware, a Chamber of Commerce is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-political organization. For this reason, this letter dealing with the subject of Lake Apopka is in the interest of the State of Florida, Central Florida, Lake County, Orange County and Winter Garden.

If you are not aware of the conditions of Lake Apopka, enclosed is two issues of the Florida Magazine Section of the Orlando Sentinel that will give you some insight as to the conditions of Lake Apopka and its causes.

Back in the late forties and early fifties, Lake Apopka was known world-wide as one of the worlds finest Black Bass and Pan Fish lakes. Many thousands of sportsmen and tourists made their annual visits to the Central Florida area because of the excellent Black Bass fishing in Lake Apopka. The names of Lake Apopka and Winter Garden were synonymous with sportsmen throughout the Eastern and Mid-Sections of the USA and parts of Canada.

Beginning about 1950 or 1951 Lake Apopka started to go sour, so to speak. Fishing became worse as the years passed; the condition of the lake waters became muck laden and stagnant. Today it is in a deplorable condition.

The loss of the thousands of sportsmen, fishermen, tourists and their dollars is a tremendous setback to the economy of Central Florida. Many of the once thriving fish camp operations, motels, and hotels have closed or are suffering financial hardships due to the sad condition of Lake Apopka.

Letter to Mr. Claude R. Kirk, 7-13-66, continued.

We feel that if you are elected as our next governor of Florida, it should be in the interest of this high office to initiate concrete action that would assure some action from the State and Federal levels to see that Lake Apopka is restored to the fine fishing and boating lake that it once was and deserves to be again.

We feel that this should be a promise in the campaign and that the promise should be fulfilled through the influence of the Governor and his high office.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur W. Sinclair
Executive Secretary-Manager

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