

Remonstrance and Petition for a Redress of Grievances – Natural Resources: Oil & Gas

We, the Delegates of the Southern States, in Congress assembled, make the following Findings and Affirmations:

History is filled with wars fought for control of natural resources. The War Between the States was no different. Economics played a key role. Northern victory has led to a multiplicity of economic injustices which have been foisted on the people of the South. Nowhere has this exploitation been more evident than in the theft of Dixie's oil and gas wealth.

One of the malefactors depriving the South of its economic heritage is the U.S. Department of the Interior. The great Senator Calhoun of South Carolina argued against the creation of the U.S. Interior Department at its inception, predicting that it would become an ominous bureaucracy. Sen. Calhoun's predictions have repeatedly been proven true. The U.S. Department of the Interior has continually misallocated and misappropriated national resources across this continent, resulting in the loss of billions of taxpayers' dollars.

Since the Roosevelt Administration, the U.S. Department of the Interior has confected numerous schemes to redistribute the wealth of the people of the several Southern States to the multinational corporations and to the Federal Government's numerous programs that disproportionately benefit California and the Northeast at the expense of the good Southern people of the Gulf Coast.

President Truman continued the twentieth century trend of going against natural right and history by promulgating Executive Order 3935, which nationalized the sea bed of the continental shelf by fiat. Congress then joined in the plunder with the Submerged Lands Act of 1953 and later the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Finally the Supreme Court of the United States completed the unholy triumvirate of despoilation when its rampant judicial activism "legally" confirmed the Federal Government's theft of Dixie's patrimony in the Tide Water Cases of the 1950s and '60s.

This crime is so egregious that it would be labeled "colonialism" if perpetrated against nations in the Third World; but when done to Southerners, it is quaintly regarded as mere federal prerogative, and we are asked to pretend that it has always been this way. However, for most of the history of these United States, the courts have consistently held that the continental shelf belonged to the Several States. See *Abbey Dodge v. United States*, 223 U.S. 166 (1912); *Louisiana v. Mississippi*, 202 U.S. 1 (1906); and *Martin v. Waddell*, 41 U.S. (16 Pet.) 367 (1842). It was not until Roosevelt's court packing scheme that socialists and Hamiltonians found common cause through judicial activism in the plunder of our Gulf's most precious resources.

This situation requires immediate and comprehensive remedies if the Federal Government is to retain its moral authority and legitimacy, and thereby the expect the continued allegiance of the Southern people. The right of the People to petition the Government for redress of grievances is recognized by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Therefore, we, the Delegates to the First Southern National Congress:

- Remonstrate against the usurpation of the patrimonial rights of the Sovereign People of the Southern States positioned along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico.
- Petition the Government of the United States to heed the overwhelming will of the Southern States and People to end the regulatory powers of the United States Interior Department and redress this bureaucracy's numerous violations of the takings clause contained within our Constitution, and make proper reparation therefor.
- Call upon the Southern delegates in the United State Congress to take all actions necessary and proper to remedy this ongoing crime with appropriate legislation.
- Demand that our governors and state legislatures act affirmatively to negate the illegal federal plunder of Dixie's offshore resources by passing solemn writs of nullification to counter the actions of all three branches of the federal government who have conspired to deny the Southern States of the Gulf Coast their rightful patrimony.