

More important, however, for our purposes here today, is the fine record Max Edwards has built in public service. I have had frequent dealings with him in his capacity as assistant to the Secretary and legislative counsel to the Interior Department, a post he has held with distinction for 7 years. He brought to this difficult job ability and training as well as that essential ingredient, character.

I am sure that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle share my belief that the outstanding success of Interior's legislative program owes much to his efforts. I have found him well informed, forthright, and extremely helpful in my work with him.

I am convinced Max Edwards will make an equally fine record as an Assistant Secretary. I am fully aware of the enormity of the problems he faces in that post and their importance to the Nation. The same qualities which have served him so well in the past will stand him in good stead in the future.

It is with confidence and pleasure, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, that I add my support to the recommendation that Max Edwards be favorably reported from this committee as Assistant Secretary for Water Pollution Control.

I thank the committee for this privilege.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Montoya.

Senator Jordan.

Senator JORDAN. Mr. Edwards, I am impressed by your background and by your record of public service. It has been very satisfactory, I think.

You are aware of the activities of the Public Land Law Review Commission that are going on at the present time; are you not?

Mr. EDWARDS. I am, sir.

Senator JORDAN. What do you think about them?

Mr. EDWARDS. I think that this investigation is perhaps long overdue. I am not familiar with the inner workings of the Commission, itself. I think it would take a lawyer only one search through the records to try to identify what the law is on a given public land problem.

To comment on the work of the Commission is impossible for me because I just don't know how well they are progressing. I have talked from time to time with some of the staff members. I think they are confident that they are coming along well. As far as defining the obvious goals of the legislation, I would be the first to support it.

Senator JORDAN. Since the Public Land Law Review Commission has started its activities, there seems to be an unusual zeal in the Department of the Interior to reclassify the lands and get them stashed away in one particular classification or another. How do you feel about that?

Mr. EDWARDS. I don't know, Senator Jordan, that there is such a zeal to reclassify the lands. I suppose in some instances that criticism is fairly well directed.

Senator JORDAN. It wasn't a criticism; it was just a question.

I wondered if there was any tie-in between what I think was an unusual zeal on the part of the Department of the Interior to reclassify these lands and the fact that they are under study by the Public Land Law Review Commission.

Mr. EDWARDS. I am afraid I am not able to comment any further on that.