

Mr. McCLURE. What would be your understanding, your feeling concerning the possibility of lumbering activities along the banks of a wild river?

Mr. FRASER. Well, the restrictions that I see in the bill are fairly substantial so that the ownership that could be acquired by the Federal Government would not extend very far back from the banks. What I would expect might happen is, if lumbering were an interest along there, similar to what has happened up, for example, in the boundary waters canoe area where there is a prohibition along the shoreline for a distance back, so that the character of the lakes is not altered but back 500 feet or a 1,000 feet, then the lumbering does take place. And I would envision a similar situation here where you protect the character of the river itself, but some distance back it might be permitted.

Mr. McCLURE. How about public access?

Mr. FRASER. Well, public access is required, but is no problem, I think. There are a number of roads that have to cross on bridges along the way, so the places to put in a canoe, for example, I think already exist. They certainly—

Mr. McCLURE. In the wild area.

Mr. FRASER. Yes.

Mr. McCLURE. There are a number of roads down to the river, crossing the river at the present time.

Mr. FRASER. Yes. The whole stretch is so long that there are roads maybe—well, I do not want to overstate it. There are not that many but I would say every 10 to 20 miles at least there probably is a road or a bridge across the river.

Mr. McCLURE. And in that area if the banks, the immediate area of 500 or a 1,000 feet back from the banks are protected there is no need to worry what might be done—I should not put it that broadly—you have no direct concern at the present time as to the kind of development that might take place at 1,000 feet or more from the river bank.

Mr. FRASER. Yes. Do not hold me to the figures and if I may say, also knowing this is still a relatively sparsely populated part of both Minnesota and Wisconsin, essentially a forested agricultural area—the pressures are not very great for development that would be incompatible.

Mr. McCLURE. And would the same thing be true in your mind if the river banks rose to high mountains so that you could see quite a distance from the river?

Mr. FRASER. The question is whether I would hold the same view if back from the river banks there are mountains?

Mr. McCLURE. Yes.

Mr. FRASER. I have trouble visualizing that in real terms.

Mr. McCLURE. The thing that I am getting at is whether you are just concerned about the immediate environment or are you concerned about the total environment including what you can see from the river in this wild area?

Mr. FRASER. Yes. Well, I am concerned about the larger setting to the extent that it might impair the wild nature of the river. But as I say, I do not think there are any pressures of that kind that exist. Lumbering is not the kind of activity that is really incompatible unless you were to go down and cut along the shoreline or cut very close to