

Mr. CRAFTS. The Eleven Point was one of the rivers that was in our group for most intensive study. We floated the river. We have talked to the people. We have consulted with the corps. It is my understanding that the Water Valley project which has been controversial, has been recommended by the corps for deauthorization. This means we no longer have the question of what you might call competition between corps impoundments and the scenic river values. I think, if I understood the Congressman right, his concern went to a feeling that this river perhaps should be dammed up for purposes of flood control, and so forth.

If he is talking just about the narrow strip along the river, I can say that, although we have not held public hearings, we have consulted with the people, we have been in the area, and we have a report on the Eleven Point, which we can make available to you if you would like to have it.

Mr. SAYLOR. Will the gentleman yield to me at that point?

First, I think we ought to get this established in the record real early.

Mr. CRAFTS. What is the position of the Department of Interior on this legislation? Is this local in character, or is this a piece of legislation which is national in character?

Mr. CRAFTS. It is national in character.

Mr. SAYLOR. Well, if it is national in character, what will be the position of the Department of Interior if that which the Department of Interior recommends should be included, and the local Congressman thinks it should be excluded, and two members of Congress who sit in the other body thinks it ought to be included. Because that is the situation we have on one of these rivers.

Mr. CRAFTS. Well, I think, Mr. Saylor, that we, of course, give very heavy weight to the views of the Congressman from the District, we give very heavy weight to the views of the Senators from the State, we give weight, as we understand it, to the views of the people in the area. But some of these things must be decided, and this is the characteristic pattern usually—like Assateague, for example, which Mr. Morton went through—where there was local opposition, but nationally at least it appeared to be wanted. I would have to say that we arrive at our light of all of these considerations. As you well know, we do not always go along with local Congressmen.

Mr. KYL. Will the gentleman yield?

It seems to me this gets into a little more difficult area when we talk about study of rivers.

Now, suppose a Congressman from a certain district with one of these rivers is opposed to the river being set aside at the present time and even in present disposition, is opposed to studying the proposition.

Now, we certainly cannot block up the study of that river for all time to come.

Mr. CRAFTS. I have not talked to Mr. Gathings. As I mentioned in my testimony, these bills are complex. I am not sure whether he was talking about eliminating it from establishment, or eliminating it from study.

I do not have the study rivers listed on the different bills.