

POLICY AS TO RESURRECTION CITY

Mr. BROYHILL. In the colloquy you had with Mr. Adams, did I understand you correctly to state that there was no difference in what was permitted in the Resurrection City area and what is normally allowed by the Park Service? I didn't hear all that colloquy because I had someone else speaking to me.

Mr. CASTRO. We issued a permit for Resurrection City, substantially the same kind of permit we would issue for demonstration in another park. Emphasis on this particular demonstration was totally different from any for which we had ever given a permit in the past.

I might say to you that we had violations of the law in Resurrection City, violations of the permit, and we did our best to enforce the conditions of the permit.

This is one of the things that led us to revoke the permit on June 23, the fact there were many violations of its condition. I am the first to admit that.

However, I do not know that it is correct to compare Resurrection City with any other event we authorize in the way of a demonstration. This was something extraordinary and unusual.

Mr. BROYHILL. What was extraordinary and unusual?

Mr. CASTRO. The fact that it was a camping form of demonstration.

Mr. BROYHILL. You have not had similar requests for camping?

Mr. CASTRO. Only one other camping demonstration in the Park System in the 7 years I have been here.

Mr. BROYHILL. How about requests?

Mr. CASTRO. We have had some and declined them.

Mr. BROYHILL. What was the difference between those declined and those not declined?

Mr. CASTRO. We were told they were bringing 3,000 people here for this demonstration, and the options we had were, one, grant a permit and recognize it or arrest 3,000 people. As a matter of policy, we decided to issue a permit.

Mr. BROYHILL. In other words, an organization which wants to get a permit to camp would only have to threaten to come here and camp anyway, and force you to arrest them, and then they will get a permit?

Mr. CASTRO. Not quite.

Mr. BROYHILL. I am not trying to make you comfortable, you know.

Mr. CASTRO. I know you're not.

Mr. BROYHILL. The gentleman from Washington was. I was not.

Mr. CASTRO. I appreciate your candor, sir.

Mr. DOWDY. Maybe he learned a lesson.

Mr. CASTRO. I might say in defense of what we did, if I have to defend it, that permits for this sort of demonstration have been issued in the past. The Boy Scouts were here some 30 years ago, 10,000 of them. They camped on the Mall, on Columbia Island, on the Ellipse, and in practically every part of the Park System. That was another form of demonstration and I will not draw parallels. They had different objectives.

Mr. BROYHILL. I do not want to belabor this point, but I wanted it understood clearly that there is no comparison between the Resurrection City permit and the other permits granted during the seven years you have been in your present position.