

I will confess that knowingly or unknowingly, I sometimes bring politics into some of my approaches to questions. I might go so far as to say, Mr. Castro—and I want to commend you on the manner you have conducted yourself this morning; your statements and answers to questions have been very effective—but if you were at liberty to give a factual and complete appraisal as to what happened here, an interpretation of these happenings, and what factors led to the decision to grant this permit, you would have to admit there were politics involved in the Department of the Interior's decision in this matter.

Mr. CASTRO. I am perfectly at liberty to answer any questions you wish to ask about Resurrection City.

Mr. BROYHILL. Was politics involved in that decision?

Mr. CASTRO. Mr. Broyhill, I don't work in the area of politics. I am a Park Administrator.

Mr. BROYHILL. You said you could answer the questions. I did not expect you to answer, but you said you could.

Mr. CASTRO. I can.

Mr. BROYHILL. Then I ask you whether politics was involved.

Mr. CASTRO. No, sir, politics was not involved; within my knowledge it was not involved.

Mr. BROYHILL. Not within your knowledge.

Let the record show that I am laughing, and also disagreeing.

Mr. CASTRO. I should make this statement to you: This was a difficult problem for us. Needless to say, it was the most strenuous job I have ever handled in my quarter century in the Park Service.

I said before that we have no hidden agendas on this. It was a business proposition for us, such as a request to demonstrate in Lafayette Park is. Because of special circumstances it was much more difficult than usual, but literally speaking, whether there was politics involved, certainly not on my part or on the part of any of the people with whom I work.

Mr. BROYHILL. I accept the fact that you are a professional career man who does his job as best he can, without regard to politics. I hope I didn't imply anything else in my remarks. However, you work for a political organization, and there are politicians in the Department of the Interior. I happen to know some of them.

Mr. CASTRO. To my mind—

Mr. ADAMS. If I may finish my reply. If I indicated to the gentleman from Virginia in any way that I am not a political animal and one willing to fight political issues with him, I certainly want to correct that impression. I have disputed his politics in the past and will in the future, and I expect that will continue indefinitely.

My remarks were that the gentleman testifying is not involved in the political business and I didn't want him to be involved in a discussion of the political philosophy of the group involved.

My comments as to political connotations or complexions of the group referred to Resurrection City itself, and I said that setting aside for a moment the politics of what people there believed or what they wanted to say or why they were here, if they were here to lobby or not, there are physical things that the Park Service has to do whenever anybody comes to town, whether it is a Boy Scout Jamboree or some-