

Mr. JONES. Yes, we did.

(Attached at this point are statements relating to this project which were later submitted for the record of hearings:)

STATEMENT OF THOMAS L. KIMBALL ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE
FEDERATION

Mr. Chairman, I am Thomas L. Kimball, Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation, which has its headquarters at 1412 Sixteenth Street, N. W., here in Washington, D. C.

The National Wildlife Federation is a private, non-profit organization which seeks to attain conservation goals through educational means. The National Wildlife Federation has affiliates in 49 states. These affiliates, in turn, are made up of local groups and individuals who, when combined with associate members and other supporters of the National Wildlife Federation, number an estimated 2½ million persons.

We welcome the invitation and opportunity to comment upon the proposed construction of certain dams on the tributary streams of the Potomac River by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

It is interesting to note that in the announcement of Public Hearing on these dams, dated March 5, 1968, issued by the Corps of Engineers over the signature of Brig. General H. G. Woodbury, Jr., a part of President Johnson's message of February 8, 1968, on the Potomac is quoted. However, we believe we should at this time complete that quotation. It is:

"A program must be devised which will:

"a. Clean up the river and keep it clean, so it can be used for boating, swimming, and fishing.

"b. Protect its natural beauties by the acquisition of scenic easements, zoning, or other measures.

"c. Provide adequate recreational facilities, and

"d. Complete the presently authorized George Washington Memorial Parkway on both banks. . . ."

It has been recorded that, as early as 1935, proposals were made to develop the water resources of the Potomac River. In the beginning, flood control and power development were the prime purposes which received attention of the Corps of Engineers; however, it was not until 1962 and 1963 that Corps plans were developed to include flood control, water supply for Washington, D.C., pollution dilution, levels of streamflow, and scenic and recreational opportunities in the Basin.

When the plan was finally released, it was revealed that one large dam on the main stem (Seneca or Point O' Rocks) and reservoirs on sixteen tributaries were being proposed. All these dams were designed to store water at flood stage and release or draw it down during the year to maintain flow levels in the river and provide for water supply in the Washington Metropolitan area as well as flushing and diluting pollution in the lower reaches of the river.

Also mentioned in the 1963 Corps plan were site locations of 420 small soil and water conservation type dams scattered at the head waters of the tributaries of the Potomac River. Nearly five years have passed and we do not see in the proposal presented any reference to the construction of these small dams in the watershed above the dam sites or any consideration by the Corps of the now-recognized importance of these upstream structures in soil and water conservation.

The Interior Department now is advocating the establishment of a Potomac National River and apparently does not oppose the plans of the Corps for construction of the reservoirs which are the subject of this hearing. And, apparently, neither the Corps of Engineers nor the Department of the Interior oppose the small watershed development program of the Soil Conservation Service, the approach we consider as the most basic and important, together with pollution control. Thus, we see a real need for coordination.

With this background, we shall comment briefly upon the proposals under consideration here today.

We do not oppose Bloomington Reservoir but believe that every possible effort must be made to clean up the acid mine pollution in order that recreational use may be made of the water.

We do not oppose Town Creek Reservoir in Maryland, believing it can serve a beneficial function in providing a source of water supply and for recreational purposes.