

Mr. JONES. You mean to say that if you extend the land out from the present limits, that the Secretary should be assured that will continue to remain public property?

General NOBLE. I believe what the Secretary was referring to there, sir, is that where a beach that does not now exist any longer is restored as a result of this project, that new beach should be public.

Mr. JONES. Thank you.

Any questions?

Mr. CRAMER. There are one or two I would like to ask.

If in fact there had been beach loss on privately owned property, and this project calls for filling it in, do I understand that that increment of fill, you consider that to be open to the public?

General NOBLE. I believe that is what the Secretary's statement means, sir. We will have to get further into this to find out exactly what it does mean. This is not part of the report, you see. It is part of the Secretary's comment on the report. And I believe that is what it means.

Mr. CRAMER. That is one of the comments.

General NOBLE. Yes, sir. Where the present property comes up to the sea, and there is no beach there, where a new beach is restored as a result of Federal funds, in the view of the Secretary that should be public.

Mr. CRAMER. An interesting comment. But you could end up with a mighty disjointed public use of what is now private property. If it were an extended distance, a substantial increment of beach area added, that might be one thing. But in this instance it does not seem to make too much sense.

Just one other question about this dune for hurricane protection. Is that the thatched line? The outer line? Is that the dune?

General NOBLE. The dune, sir—I do not know as the dune shows on that map. If you go up on the beach from the water, and you get a certain distance up—it will depend on the elevation—an artificial dune is created. On it in some cases we plant grasses so that these grasses will tend, then, to be a self-perpetuating sand catcher, that in turn will give you a dune that is more natural. And this is the thing that gives you hurricane protection.

Mr. CRAMER. It is on the beach.

General NOBLE. It is up on the beach. It is in from the water.

Mr. CRAMER. This says protective beach erosion control and a dune for hurricane protection. Your dune would not be in that whole area, would it?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir. It would run the entire length.

Mr. CRAMER. What would be the height of it?

Colonel SEIDEL. It would be—the beach, sir—2½ feet, sir.

We would start seaward of mean low water and slope up to an elevation of 9 feet. We would have a berm, then we would build our hurricane dune two and a half feet higher than that, sir.

Mr. CRAMER. Are those local properties agreeable to that? It cuts off the water, doesn't it?

General NOBLE. Not too much, sir. It is not that high. It is not a wall between the people and the sea—if it is two and a half feet, it is just a bump in the beach. It does not look like a wall. It is really a big