

Now we are looking forward to the day when there will be swimming in about 5 years.

Now with the city, with Congressman Dulski's assistance and Mr. Baker's, have moved ahead on this much-needed project for the central core area of our city. And this to me is short of a case of—I do not see why they would have to pay half the fair market value; they did not even know they owned it until recently. It is something in the national interest. It is certainly something that is needed. The city did pay half of the value of one parcel of this land, in view of the corps' acceptance of it, with this one reservation, that they would hold in abeyance the possibility that they might have to use this as a dike disposal area. They might not.

And I understand the Interior Department wants to put a time limit on that, because we are working toward a target date of 1972 when all pollution should presumably have been halted, so that anything dredged from the Buffalo River would not be contaminated, so they could put it any place. They could put it out in the lake again as they used to.

I will of course address myself to it in executive session, but I wanted to take this chance to come down here and testify on behalf of this project in our distinguished colleague's district. It has been hanging fire for years, and this committee has within its power to give the green light to something that is desperately needed in the city of Buffalo.

Mr. HARSHA. May I ask you this question. I understand the corps has suggested an amendment to the legislation to provide that the United States reserve, convey the property to you people or to the city of Buffalo, subject to a reservation that the United States has a right to use the lands as long as they may be required for a spoil disposal area.

Mr. BAKER. That is agreed to in your office.

Mr. DULSKI. I think 1971.

Mr. HARSHA. You have no objection to that?

Mr. BAKER. None at all.

Mr. HARSHA. I am further advised that the Department of Interior has no objection to a transfer of the land to the Buffalo outer harbor project, for that project. What do you propose to do there? Did you put that in your statement?

Mr. BAKER. Yes, that is in the statement. We are trying to fill this land; and as Congressman McCarthy said, it was polluted, you could not swim there. I was instructed to stop filling it. The Corps of Engineers came into the picture. If they fill it, and we get the lands and develop the park, everybody will be happy. I hope you see eye to eye with it.

Mr. DULSKI. The one important thing that my good friend, my colleague from New York made, Mr. McCarthy, is that the Government did not know; and as an attorney, 1906 is a long time, of course it is past my time, they did not even know they had the land. Here is the city of Buffalo willing to spend millions almost of dollars for recreation purposes, and this is a good area. It could not be used for anything else unless we recovered it.

Mr. HARSHA. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)