

It is about time that some of these people who are involved in making these decisions will realize that there is an interest of the public that overrides any political consideration.

When Mr. Black—I would like to comment. He is here in the room and I have nothing against him. He was picked out to come here and be the Under Secretary of the Interior. His background, of course, was that he worked up with the Bonneville Power Administration. He comes from out in the West. He has come down here and he is now second in command in the Department of the Interior. When he writes a letter to General Woodbury that says there is no doubt that the opinions reached by those concerned with the conservation impact, that their position is founded on subjective judgment considerations rather than factual evidence—I just want to say that I do not think Mr. Black even bothered to go look at the reports.

Sure, he says he went over and took a look and did not see any ducks. You cannot see any ducks if you go over there now and this subcommittee will not see any. But I want to know what is subjective about a count by ornithologists and qualified observers showing a 5-year average wintering over of the population of 4,000 ruddy ducks, 3,000 to 4,000 scaup, 300 to 400 ring-neck ducks, 200 black ducks, and as high as 1,500 canvasbacks, mallards, bubblehead, pintails, and whistling swan. This is not subjective, this is not opinion; these are facts. And he completely ignored them.

All I can say is that not only my faith, but the faith of a good many other people in the Interior Department, has been shaken by the decision that has been reached by these people. And very frankly, I just feel sick at heart that Stewart Udall, who has established a record second to none of the people who have occupied the position of Secretary of the Interior, would have a black mark like this left against him. I certainly hope that this will be reversed, because the Secretary of the Interior, following the President's message, sent to our Interior and Insular Affairs Committee a bill asking that the Potomac be preserved, and while one committee of the Congress is trying to act upon the legislation suggested by the President and the Department of the Interior, the same Department of the Interior is playing hand in foot with the Corps of Engineers, and violating what was intended.

Well, it is just one of those things that makes other people in other countries wonder what has happened to the United States. These are the values that ought to be preserved and there are plenty of places they can go and build a high-rise apartment without coming down and filling in Hunting Creek.

Some of us have had enough interest in this that we have gone and gotten some old maps, and I think we are going to be able to prove that this might not be in Alexandria, this might be in Fairfax County, and we might get a little court case to determine just where the line is in Alexandria, Va., and Fairfax County people have not been asked whether they would like to have it. Of course the commissioners of that area have indicated that they are very much opposed to the granting of this license and they have not given any license to anybody to put up a high-rise apartment in this area.

I hope as a result of this committee hearing that you can impress upon the Corps of Engineers, who have the final responsibility in this, that while it will not interfere with navigation—everybody concedes that point that this fill is not going to interfere with navigation on the