

Thank you.

Mr. JONES. Thank you very much.

Do you know whether the Governor has acted under the 1964 act of the legislature?

Mr. FROME. I have been in touch with the chairman of the conservation commission, who said the matter is now under review by the attorney general of the State for the Governor.

Mr. JONES. And the Governor has made no comment?

Mr. FROME. No; he has not.

Mr. JONES. Are there questions? Mr. Roush?

Mr. ROUSH. No questions.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Moss?

Mr. MOSS. Mr. Chairman, I have no questions at this time; but I do want to compliment you, Mr. Frome, on a most excellent statement. I share your sense of disquiet. I think we are seeing too many beauty spots in this Nation verge on becoming dead completely.

In my State we are concerned about the saving of our redwood forests and the preservation of Lake Tahoe. We know the serious nature of the threat to both of those irreplaceable resources. And I have the same attitude toward the resource which has already been permitted to be significantly downgraded: the Potomac and its tributaries. Thank you.

Mr. FROME. We are very grateful to you, Mr. Moss, for coming and living in our community and exercising your interest as both a resident of the community and a statesman of the Nation.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Vander Jagt?

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to commend Mr. Frome for his interest and concern, as shown in his statement, and parenthetically commend the little old lady in the tennis shoes who whipped up your interest in this particular matter. I have just a couple of questions.

I understand you made the statement that when this public hearing was held in Alexandria on February 21, the career people of the National Park Service and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries were not permitted by their superiors to testify.

Mr. FROME. I did not make that statement; but it is a fact.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. That is a fact?

Mr. FROME. Oh, yes. Dr. Cain told me that.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. One other question: You asked Secretary Udall on what basis, or on what decision process, they concluded that this area really was of little conservation value?

Mr. FROME. Yes.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. The answer came back to you through Mr. Black. Do I understand that the basis of that explanation was that they questioned the competence of people who had examined the area?

Mr. FROME. I think that is a fair conclusion; yes.

I would also like to say I think it is unfortunate that the Secretary had to take refuge behind his Under Secretary. I asked for his judgment, his personal opinion, and I talked with him about this before.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. And you never received an answer from him?

Mr. FROME. No; I did not receive his view. I think it was the Department's decision that the Secretary of the Interior should stand behind it and take responsibility for it.