

I have noted with particular interest your closing comments on the memorandum of understanding we have with the Department of the Army. The real significance of that arrangement, in my view, is that it establishes the principle of interagency review and prescribes a procedure that assures that opportunity. You are aware, I am sure, that our views are not mandatory on the corps. We have every confidence that our position will be persuasive where the values are demonstrated and significant. But the memorandum of understanding grants us no license to be arbitrarily negative, without regard to private property rights, weight of the evidence or relevance to matters properly within the Department's sphere of responsibility. If such a pattern were adopted, the memorandum would soon become a shell empty of substance.

I trust that your journalistic treatment of this issue will give due recognition to all of the factors involved in spite of the personal preference most of us might have with regard to this project.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID S. BLACK, *Under Secretary.*

Mr. JONES. Mr. Frome, in your article, which I will put in the record immediately after your testimony, on page 53 of the June 1968 issue of American Forests magazine, you said you phoned Director Gottschalk, and that he said :

Our report of 1964 is still valid. The marshes below will deteriorate. But the effect of this fill in itself is not our primary concern. We must choose: either we can make the Potomac a model river or we make it a ditch.

Was that a direct quote of a conversation you had with him?

Mr. FROME. Yes.

Mr. JONES. Then the continuing paragraph :

Then I called Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., of the National Park Service, who said, "I am deeply disturbed. I agree completely with Mr. Gottschalk. I am worried about the process of decisionmaking and where it may lead."

Is that too a direct quote of the conversation that you had with Mr. Hartzog?

Mr. FROME. This is correct, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. JONES. Thank you, sir. We appreciate your testimony, Mr. Frome. It has been most helpful.

Mr. FROME. Thank you.

Mr. JONES. Without objection, Mr. Frome's article in the June 1968 issue of American Forests magazine will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The article follows:)

[From American Forests magazine, June 1968]

By MIKE FROME

I found myself one day enjoying the most delightful daydream, in which I was privileged to spend my career writing about the natural and intellectual glory of America, evoking the love that all must feel for forest, river, prairie, wildlife, and humankind, the diverse land forms and life forms. In this luxurious reverie I was free of issues, crises, and conflicts, and of entangling occupation with the ways of politicians, bureaucrats, and special economic interests.

Then the telephone rang. The dream was done.

It was a little old lady in tennis shoes. I could tell by the tone in her voice—blessed with idealism and honesty, hurt, and anger, determination, confusion, and uncertainty about the weakness and corruption in the world around her.

"I have read your article in Southern Living about the Everglades," said she, "but you do not fully impress me. It is one thing to advocate protection of endangered birds a thousand miles away, but why have you been silent about endangered birds at Hunting Creek on the Potomac River, close to your home? Are you, indeed, like the Department of the Interior, which screams like a bold hawk but behaves more like a frightened chicken?"