

Mr. REUSS. You don't have to be a great ecologist to figure out that it is likely to cause further siltation. Ironically, it has always been one of the contentions of these people who want to fill in the land that there is so much siltation down there that ultimately there won't be any Hunting Creek estuary but just a filled area. If Mr. Horne disagrees with my thought—that there is a greater likelihood of sedimentation occurring if you erect the 9-acre thumb fill in pursuance of the Corps of Engineers permit—let him so state.

Mr. HORNE. I think it is a matter of degree, Mr. Congressman. The big—

Mr. REUSS. Everything is. But do you agree or disagree with what I said?

Mr. HORNE. There probably would be more; yes, sir. The big area of siltation that occurred in this area occurred during the building of the interstate freeway where there was, shall we say, accidental, but at least there was a big mud flow that came down Hunting Creek and spread out in this area. I don't believe that the natural forces that are now in force would cause the siltation anywhere near the degree to which that mud flow would.

Mr. REUSS. In the light of your answer—in which you agree with me that the likelihood of siltation would be increased by the filling of the 9 acres covered by this application—is it not also a fact that if such partial fill by sedimentation would occur, that it would be easier for a future Corps of Engineers to grant an additional permit for the additional 18 acres, or perhaps 9 acres, lying immediately to the north of the fill which is the subject of the May 29, 1968, permit, on the ground, then, that the area now under water had become a marsh or sand spit?

Mr. HARTZOG. Sir, I wouldn't think we would necessarily want to speculate on that because we took a pretty hard line in the Under Secretary's letter that we would be impelled to object—or the Department did.

Mr. REUSS. I recognize that, yes. However, as you well know, the Corps of Engineers may disregard the Department's advice.

Mr. HARTZOG. They legally may, as I understand it; yes, sir.

Mr. REUSS. May I put to you this question: Would it not be easier in the future for the Corps of Engineers to disregard the Department of Interior's recommendation should the Department of Interior recommend against a fill of the approximately 9 acres lying to the north of the fill which has just been approved by the Corps of Engineers?

Mr. HARTZOG. Sir, I would be very reluctant to speculate on that, especially in light of what happened as a result of the one they have approved already. I wouldn't want to speculate and agree with you on that.

Mr. REUSS. I have one final question: Have you discussed your testimony this morning with Under Secretary Black?

Mr. HARTZOG. We have conferred; yes, sir.

Mr. REUSS. I have no further questions.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Vander Jagt?

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

Mr. Director, it is my understanding that in 1964 the National Park Service objected to filling in this area. Among many grounds, one ground was that it would adversely affect the recreational value of that area; is that correct?