

Mr. Moss. Apart from your official activities in connection with this, have you ever had the opportunity of observing the area discussed and included in the permit?

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. Many times, as a matter of fact.

In my previous tour of duty in Washington, from 1951 to 1959, I followed my hobby of birdwatching and in the wintertime frequently visited this area, and the Dyke Marsh area below it, because of the concentration of waterfowl that would be seen there in the winter.

On my return to this position in 1964, I immediately was apprised of the controversy about Hunting Creek and so I made it a point every winter to visit the area and to look at it two or three times just to see what I could see, from personal interest as well as putting myself in a position to discuss it and try to understand it better.

So I am quite familiar with the area. The most recent time I was out there was with Under Secretary Black who asked me to accompany him on a field visit to the site prior to the time he made his final decision on this project.

Mr. Moss. Having observed it, when would the diving duck population there be at its maximum?

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. I would say in the period between roughly December 15, to about February 1.

Mr. Moss. On what date did you visit the area with Under Secretary Black?

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. I do not have the precise date in my mind, but it was shortly before he wrote to the Corps of Engineers, which would have been approximately the 20th of April. I can get the exact date for the record.

Mr. Moss. That would not be a time when one would expect to see much evidence of diving ducks.

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. No; that is correct. He visited it at that time with full appreciation of this fact, however. I made it quite clear to him that we were seeing the area at the time of the least use by waterfowl and pointed out that we have a record of substantial use at other times of the year.

Mr. Moss. Thank you very much.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Reuss.

Mr. REUSS. I yield to Mr. Vander Jagt first, if I may.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Could you tell me, for my information, does the Bureau have a position at this time as to whether the filling in of these acres would adversely affect conservation and recreation in this area?

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. The Bureau has never changed its position. We have not been asked to change our position by the Department. Our report still stands exactly as written. I think I would only say in addition that we respect the fact that the Secretary has many broader concerns than just the narrow ones of fish and wildlife, even though these are important.

So I support the decision that the Under Secretary made. I respect the fact that he must see things from a larger point of view than I do.

While we do not agree, I accept the decision and support it.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. While you can support the overall decision, if we get it narrowed down to just whether or not it would adversely affect wildlife and conservation and recreation, would it be your opin-