

Mr. Moss. On March 15 of this year you received a memorandum from Dr. Cain, subject, "Hunting Creek Dredging Permit." In the third paragraph of that memorandum he states:

Today I had a chance to speak to Secretary Udall about the problem. He had earlier relegated the decision to me and had raised no objection to what I did. He merely wishes that we get a scientific-technical basis that can be stood on, whether we go "yes" or "no" on issuance of the permit. This being the case, and since I made my earlier decision without asking for a new study of the area, I think that one should be made now. Will you please have two or three of the bureau staff—types who ordinarily make such judgments in river basins—go over there and take a new look? Whatever the judgment of the Bureau turns out to be, I will go with it, as will the Secretary.

Was that objective of the "scientific-technical basis" ever achieved?

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. We did not make a complete restudy utilizing new people. Our confidence in Dr. Uhler is just as great now as it was before. He still, I think, would qualify as perhaps the Nation's top expert from the standpoint of fish and wildlife in this area.

Therefore, I arranged that Mr. Arthur Dicks of our Division of River Basin Studies and Dr. Uhler and a representative of the Park Service, make a field appraisal of conditions in the area, which they did. This study was completed and the conclusion reached was that there was no basis for changing any of the conclusions of our 1964 report.

Mr. Moss. Thank you.

Mr. REUSS. Mr. Chairman, I have a few more questions. Director Gottschalk, you have testified that you have seen the waterfowl resting area at the Hunting Creek estuary many times over recent years with your own eyes.

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. Yes.

Mr. REUSS. Have you seen, as I have, literally hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of diving ducks at rest in that area?

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. Not in the 9 acres that is under contention as part of this permit application.

Mr. REUSS. But in the general area of the Hunting Creek estuary?

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. In the general area—and the general area I would say would be from a point approximately half a mile above Wilson Bridge to a point approximately a half mile below Wilson Bridge—I have seen numbers of waterfowl ranging into the tens of thousands. In fact, I would imagine at one time I saw more than 50,000 ruddy ducks in this area.

Mr. REUSS. I suppose it is not possible for you to pinpoint any particular 9 acres of the Hunting Creek estuary, which comprises several hundred acres, as being particularly used by these diving ducks; is that correct?

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. That is correct.

Mr. REUSS. So when you say you are unable to testify as to this particular 9 acres, in fact, you would be unable to testify with particularity as to any 9-acre tract within the whole Hunting Creek estuary, is that not so?

Dr. GOTTSCHALK. That is correct.

Mr. REUSS. I want to commend you for the good things you said about Dr. Uhler and the loyalty you expressed to him which, quite apart from the subject matter of the hearing here, is an attitude of support for loyal civil servants which I find very pleasant.