

manner and presented a personal statement to the Engineer Corps regarding my views on the subject, I felt that the proposed construction of a marina—and I didn't learn of it until that hearing—in conjunction with this high-rise apartment, plus the construction of a deep channel through the existing so-called thread of Hunting Creek upstream some distance, would create an increase in human disturbance through motorboat activity particularly, that would be inimical to waterfowl use. And also the physical appearance of a 150-foot high-rise apartment on the edge of water now a resting ground and feeding ground would certainly not improve the usability of that area.

Mr. MOSS. That would go much beyond the 9 acres.

Dr. UHLER. That is right.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. I would like to thank you, Dr. Uhler, for a very helpful and knowledgeable statement. I have only one question, to which I am sure the other members of the committee know the answer, but since we are spending so much time on diving ducks, I wonder if you could just tell us what is a diving duck?

Dr. UHLER. There are two major groups of ducks. One that we call the river duck, or shoal-water duck, or some folks call them puddle ducks, that feed primarily by tipping up and thereby getting their feed from the bottom, or between the bottom and the surface of the water. This is in contrast to the activities of the so-called diving ducks which feed primarily by diving in deeper sites and feeding on bottom organisms as well as on organisms of intermediate origin.

The canvasback, the ruddy duck, and bufflehead duck, greater and lesser scaup, the various species of mergansers, the golden eye—those are a few examples of diving ducks that require essentially open feeding grounds for their welfare.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Thank you very much.

Mr. REUSS. Dr. Uhler, I want to try to list the various elements in your objection to this 9-acre fill. These are not necessarily in order of importance.

Objection No. 1 is the disturbance factor you mentioned to Congressman Moss—that if you erect a high-rise apartment jutting out into the estuary it will prevent ducks from using it. Is that correct?

Dr. UHLER. That is correct.

Mr. REUSS. A second objection is that this particular 9 acres is as valuable as any other 9-acre stretch of the valuable waterfowl feeding ground in the Hunting Creek estuary and there will be 9 acres less of valuable wetland if it is filled; is that correct?

Dr. UHLER. I would not be in a position to say that the food organisms on that actual 9 acres are identical with the food organisms on the rest of the Hunting Creek estuary. They may or they might not be. The area, the 9 acres, is closer to the existing high-rise apartment houses and has an existing disturbance factor that I believe tends to limit the waterfowl use to some extent and if we extend that high-rise complex on out into the river, we are pushing that same disturbance factor that much farther out.

Mr. REUSS. You and I have several times, by canoe on one occasion at least, been out on the actual waters of Hunting Creek estuary and specifically on the waters where this fill is supposed to take place, is that correct?