

Dr. UHLER. That is correct.

Mr. REUSS. We have seen ducks in the area where the fill is to take place, have we not?

Dr. UHLER. That is correct.

Mr. REUSS. A third objection, as I understand it, is that the dredging that would be required by the fill would alter existing depths and make it a less satisfactory waterfowl habitat?

Dr. UHLER. That is correct.

Mr. REUSS. A fourth objection, as I understand it, is that filling a thumb jutting out into Hunting Creek estuary would be likely to cause undue siltation in the upstream area of Hunting Creek estuary and further possible destruction, is that correct?

Dr. UHLER. That is correct.

Mr. REUSS. In addition to those four reasons, which we have now analyzed, are there any other points to your objection?

Dr. UHLER. In the process of developing a fill in this area, you are obviously going to have a turbidity increase comparable to that which we have adjacent to all dredging operations on the Potomac and that turbidity is not going to benefit waterfowl.

Mr. REUSS. We call that objection No. 5, would it be?

Dr. UHLER. Well—

Mr. REUSS. We will correct the record if my numbering is wrong.

Then there is a sixth objection voiced by Director Gottschalk and I wonder if you agree with that—if these other four or five objections did not exist, the nibbling point would be relevant. Namely, if a permit is granted for 9 acres, pretty soon applicants will be around for another 9, 18, or 27 acres, on the theory that Hunting Creek has now been filled somewhat and a little more fill won't hurt. Would you subscribe to that sixth point too?

Dr. UHLER. Yes, and I would point out that the so-called nibbling process is in an advanced stage right now. I have seen what has occurred a few years back on the Anacostia River where the marshes have been essentially nibbled to death. I have seen where the nibbling process of the Four Mile Run has completely eliminated the marsh. I have seen where the nibbling process on Oxon Creek across the river from Alexandria has eliminated a former fine marsh, and I have seen what has occurred on the south side of the lower part of Hunting Creek between Mount Vernon Parkway on Memorial Highway and on the U.S. No. 1 Highway, where in the last 3 years we have lost probably the finest remaining wild rice beds in the Alexandria area, first by filling it with debris and then superimposing landfill on top of it.

Mr. REUSS. These original applications in 1963 covered 38 acres, did they not?

Dr. UHLER. I believe that is correct.

Mr. REUSS. And in 1964, after opposition had been heard, the request was reduced to 18, is that correct?

Dr. UHLER. I am not in a position to know the precise acreages that were involved.

Mr. REUSS. And more recently, within the last year, the application that has been pursued has been for only 9 acres, is that correct?

Dr. UHLER. That is what I have been told.