

Mr. Moss. General, I find it very difficult to reconcile your response with the concluding paragraph of that letter of transmittal to Secretary Black. That letter of April 15 concludes with these words:

I would appreciate your comments at the earliest practicable date since the applicant has indicated the urgency of a prompt decision.

General WOODBURY. Yes, sir; not to me. My testimony is that I am not aware—I do not recall any case—that the applicant at any time approached me on this. He approached the district engineer.

Mr. Moss. It seems to me that is rather ambivalent.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. General, I understood your testimony just a few moments ago to be that you did not think there was any need for urgency in this matter.

General WOODBURY. I understood you to say haste, sir. I do not think we acted in haste. It took a long time.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. I do not mean to quibble with words but it is your testimony that you were aware of the fact that there was a sense of urgency in this matter.

General WOODBURY. Yes, sir.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Thank you very much.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Reuss?

Mr. REUSS. General Woodbury, when did you first have any communication with Under Secretary of Interior Black on the subject of the Hunting Creek fill permits?

General WOODBURY. I suspect it was about the time that I wrote this letter to him, sir.

Mr. REUSS. By "this letter," you mean the letter of April 15, 1968?

General WOODBURY. Yes, sir. I do not recall any earlier conversations with him about it.

Mr. REUSS. You do not recall?

General WOODBURY. No, that is correct. I mean about the 15th of April.

Mr. REUSS. You wrote the letter on April 15, did you not?

General WOODBURY. Yes, sir.

Mr. REUSS. Did you have any contacts with Under Secretary Black, directly or indirectly, prior to the time you wrote that letter on April 15?

General WOODBURY. Yes. I say I think I did about the time this letter was sent over. I believe I told him that I was going to send it over.

Mr. REUSS. Did you tell him this over the telephone, or in person, or how?

General WOODBURY. My recollection is a little fuzzy, but it would be routine for me to say that we have a permit over here that there seems to be some disagreement about, and I am going to send it over under our agreement. We do this so that he is aware it is coming and takes a personal note of it.

Mr. REUSS. Was this conversation in person or over the telephone?

General WOODBURY. My recollection is that it would have been on the phone, sir.

Mr. REUSS. Did you call him or did he call you?

General WOODBURY. No, I suspect I called him.

Mr. REUSS. What did Under Secretary Black say?