

staff people, I again got the feeling that there was some urgency. Now, I do not know what the urgency was. It is undoubtedly connected——

Mr. MOSS. Did you review the statement which was made in 1964 by Fish and Wildlife——

Dr. CAIN. No, sir.

Mr. MOSS. You did not review that?

Dr. CAIN. No, sir. I did not at that time have the files before me.

Mr. MOSS. Doctor, you amaze me. I would not reverse my own position on an issue without going back and studying what the position had been and rethinking the position. Sometimes I am called upon to consider that, and I always do it with a great deal of care and deliberateness, so that I can fully justify it, because I am frequently queried, as you are being queried, as to why. And yet there seems to be no reason. Someone brought you a letter, and you do not know who it was.

Dr. CAIN. I know who it was that made the letter; yes, sir.

Mr. MOSS. Who was it?

Dr. CAIN. It was a member of the Solicitor's office.

Mr. MOSS. Who in the Solicitor's office?

Dr. CAIN. Mr. Bernie Meyer.

Mr. MOSS. Mr. Meyer brought you a letter. And he stated that there was an urgent need for you to sign it?

Dr. CAIN. Right. And I read the letter very carefully. And my general reaction, as I have just described it, was that the letter was acceptable, and I was willing to sign it, but before I signed it I wanted to talk to the Secretary's office to see what the position was there.

Mr. MOSS. Were you aware that the Secretary had personally sent a letter——

Dr. CAIN. Sir?

Mr. MOSS. Were you aware that the Secretary had personally sent a letter expressing strong opposition to this permit?

Dr. CAIN. No, sir.

Mr. MOSS. But you were aware of the overall administration position of attempting to clean up and to improve the Potomac. I recall when the Secretary made quite a battle to prevent high-rise construction on the Potomac, and acquired property interests, by condemnation in several instances. And yet here in this one instance there is a sort of walking away from this policy. I fail utterly to comprehend the decisional process in this instance.

I have no further questions.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Vander Jagt?

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dr. Cain, just so that the record is clear, I understand that your opinion, as of now, is that there has been considerable study and thought given to the matter.

Dr. CAIN. I have discovered a tremendous file on this problem since; yes, sir.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. But as of now it is your opinion that the fill would eventually affect conservational and recreational values?

Dr. CAIN. That is a very good question, Mr. Vander Jagt, because I have the very unenviable record of making a decision on the 10th of October and reversing myself on the 10th of April of this year. Let me say immediately that my personal feeling about this—that is, my