

Mr. Moss. Just along the same line, as a matter of fact in response to a question of yours, Dr. Gottschalk carried beyond the point you read and I think it is rather important.

He said:

The point I tried to make with the Secretary——

And he was discussing you, Mr. Secretary——

was that we are losing our habitat, not in large chunks, but in these small bites.

And then he goes on and says:

I explained my position in some detail to Mr. Black. I know that he considered it thoroughly before he came to his final conclusion. As I say, I respect his decision, even though we do not agree.

Mr. BLACK. Well, of course, this gets back again, Mr. Chairman, to the so-called precedent effect of small chunks and this was of concern to me. This is why I, in examining this area, felt that it uniquely did not apply here because of the Federal ownership interests and our clearly expressed intention to guard against any incursion in the Dyke Marsh area. I am told, and again, I am not an expert on every foot of the shoreline of this area at all, but I am told that there is almost no further opportunity for private development. This was extremely persuasive to me. So this is why I say that when the experts, who are expert parkmen or expert fish and wildlife men or expert diving duck men, tell me that this will have a nibbling, precedential effect that will obliterate the shoreline in the Potomac, I say I am just as expert to decide that question as they are, and perhaps more so.

Mr. Moss. Let's see if you are. You are from the coast. So am I.

Mr. BLACK. I beg your pardon?

Mr. Moss. And I can think of the nibbling effect that has been going around the San Francisco Bay to the point where we are really quite concerned now, aren't we——

Mr. BLACK. I am not from California.

Mr. Moss (continuing). About whether or not the bay is even going to continue as a live body of water, because of the nibbling effect? Mr. McCloskey is quite familiar with it. It is a matter of grave concern in the San Francisco Bay area. Each bit of it started around in a nibbling pattern and people kept saying it could never reach the point of serious proportions.

Mr. BLACK. Is this in Federal ownership?

Mr. Moss. Some of it is; some of it isn't. A lot of it is in municipal ownership. But the gradual intrusion of fill and development into the bay is killing it, and as Dr. Uhler testified it certainly happened on the Anacostia. He cited a number of other instances. If the record was not so very comprehensive of the precedent, the disastrous precedent of these nibbling instances, I think your view might be more valid.

I thank you for yielding.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for your addition.

Now, Mr. Secretary, in your statement, first, could I ask you if that upper map is a fair replica of that area?

Mr. BLACK. I assume that it is.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. In your prepared statement beginning at the bottom of page 4 and continuing over to the top of page 5, you say:

Structures on the proposed fill would be largely on line with the existing high-rise buildings which have already modified the scenic vista.