

said it wasn't monolithic and it wasn't unanimous and that you made a poll.

Mr. BLACK. I said I would have to make a poll in order to answer it.

Mr. MOSS. But you didn't make a poll?

Mr. BLACK. No, sir.

Mr. MOSS. And, therefore, to the extent of your knowledge at the time you acted—and that is the only thing you can rely upon—the knowledge you had, at the time of your action, was that at least those who had advised with you were unanimous in expressing disapproval in varying degrees, whether mild or vigorous; is that correct?

Mr. BLACK. I would say that that is probably a fair characterization of it; yes, sir.

Mr. MOSS. Well——

Mr. BLACK. This is why I, as a policy executive in the Department of the Interior, am brought in. If any decisions are to be based upon polling individuals who are in subordinate positions to me——

Mr. MOSS. Mr. Secretary, let's make it very clear, I am not suggesting that you should poll. But the question asked you went to the nature of the advice you received—whether it was unanimous or whether it was fragmented. Quite clearly, your statements indicate that the advice to you was unanimously in opposition to the position you took from within the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Mr. BLACK. I think that is substantially correct.

Mr. MOSS. Is it also true in the Park Service?

Mr. BLACK. No; I think not.

Mr. MOSS. What exemption could you cite there?

Mr. BLACK. I don't believe that Director Hartzog expressed opposition to this. I had quite a conversation with him. I don't believe that Mr. Horne expressed opposition to it.

Mr. MOSS. Let me say that, as to Mr. Hartzog, the record here is abundant, it is clear, it is precise. I think it is as unequivocal as anything can be. It will speak for itself.

Mr. BLACK. All right.

Mr. MOSS. I thank you for yielding.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. And I thank you for the addition, Mr. Chairman.

Well, let us get back then to what is not monolithic and what is not unanimous, because there was only mild opposition on the part of some. Let us get back to the question that you overruled the judgment of many in the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and in the National Park Service because their judgments were based on "subjective judgment considerations rather than any factual evidence which would support valid objection." What was the factual evidence which you used to overrule their conclusions?

Mr. BLACK. The evidence that I used to overrule their conclusions were my visual inspection of the area, my examination of the substance of their reports as distinguished from the conclusions, and my belief that eventually an executive decision has to be made. This had been under discussion and under study for a long period of time; and the time had come, it seemed to me, when we had an abundant record and, based on a reading of Dr. Uhler's report—which is objective, save his conclusions—and my discussions with Dr. Gottschalk, and my visual inspection of the area—which I think is objective—I determined that the Department of the Interior did not have a good case to oppose development of this small area.