

Mr. BLACK. Well, again, what he testified to yesterday and what was in his mind at the time that I acted, I can only speculate; but in his incoming letter to me he says in the next to the last paragraph, "However, I have been informally advised the position of the Department of the Interior has been changed and therefore in accordance with the policies set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding between our departments dated July 13, 1967, I refer the application to you for your consideration."

Again, I don't know what was in General Woodbury's mind yesterday, or when he wrote that letter, but there is no doubt at all but that General Woodbury knew what had transpired at the Department of the Interior. I certainly don't want to—

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Would anybody reading this letter be fair if he concluded that the objections within the Department of Interior as to conservation and recreational values had been resolved?

Mr. BLACK. Would that be a fair conclusion from my letter that they had been resolved?

Mr. VANDER JAGT. Yes.

Mr. BLACK. Oh, no. I don't think so. They had not been resolved within the Department of Interior, and I so indicated.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. So far as the Department of Interior's official position is concerned the objections had been resolved.

Mr. BLACK. Yes, sir; that was my intention to convey that—resolved in the sense that the decision was made by me.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. So that when General Woodbury testified that the reason the permit was granted was because the objections had been resolved, he was in fact on solid ground then.

Mr. BLACK. It had been resolved so far as an official and final departmental position, Department of Interior position, was concerned. I think that is accurate.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. In April when all of this was going on—there has been testimony here and mention made, in fact I think you made mention, I don't know if you used the word "urgency"—somebody said there was a sense of urgency about this because Secretary Black is getting all kinds of telephone calls on it. From whom were those calls?

Mr. BLACK. Well, in the first place Dr. Cain's memorandum to General Woodbury said that Under Secretary Black is getting numerous telephone calls. Again that was his adjective, not mine. I had received probably three telephone calls. I received a telephone call from a Jerry Verkler who was a staff member of the Senate Interior Committee, expressing no concern on his own behalf but communicating to me that Senator Birch Bayh was interested in this, and he was more or less inquiring what the status of it was and who would be handling it. I told him that I would be handling it.

Senator Jackson, who is chairman of the Interior Committee, telephoned me in an entirely neutral fashion on behalf of Senator Bayh, emphasizing to me that he had no interest in the outcome of this whatever. He only wanted to be sure that it would receive a fair and impartial evaluation by me. And I had advised him that I was the individual who would see to it. This was made very clear.

I had a telephone call from Senator Bayh himself, in which he expressed his interest in this development, in seeing that the permit was