

tee cannot deal with the charge that Congressman Saylor made. He voiced a personal opinion. I imagine that from time to time you certainly have the opportunity before the Interior Committee for conversation with him.

Mr. BLACK. This is an examination, Mr. Chairman, by the House Government Operations Committee, presumably of the decisional process that was followed in arriving at an executive department decision; and I would hope that this committee would be somewhat concerned with the charge made that the decisional process was influenced improperly.

Mr. MOSS. This committee will be concerned with any evidence of improper influence in the decisional process. But I wanted to make it clear that there are limits upon what this committee can do in dealing with Members of the House who want to voice their personal opinions.

Mr. VANDER JAGT. That is all the information I need, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Mr. MOSS. Mr. Gude?

Mr. GUDE. Mr. Secretary, you stated, I believe, that in talking with Dr. Gottschalk he raised more concern over the precedent of granting this license than the actual area involved, that his concern was that this would establish a precedent, and I would gather that you did not share this concern, and that you did not feel there would be a "nibbling away" process—that if that entire area in the upper map, which is in both red and black, were eventually filled up, that this would still not be a problem as far as both recreation and wildlife are concerned?

Mr. BLACK. I think that that would—that the entire wedge, which was the subject of the two original applicants, if that were filled in that would certainly concern us. The nibbling effect I had in mind and I believe that Dr. Gottschalk was referring to—at least what I took him to be referring to—had to do with other areas south of that point, and my conclusion on that was based on the fact that it is substantially all in Federal ownership. There is one piece which is still in private ownership and could be the subject of a fill application down, I guess it is, near the Dyke Marsh area. Or it is just above—just below Dyke Marsh which would cause us concern. We indicated in our communication to the Corps of Engineers that we would bend every effort to protect this. But so far as the area of Federal ownership is concerned, that strikes me as protected.

Mr. MOSS. Would you yield for just one moment? Mr. Secretary, I would like very much to have you prepare for the committee, or have prepared for the committee, a map of the area from Alexandria to Mount Vernon showing the areas on the Virginia side of the river, showing the areas in private and in public ownership, Federal or otherwise.

Mr. BLACK. I would be happy to do that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOSS. It might be well to put the Maryland side in at the same time.

Mr. BLACK. The Maryland side?

Mr. MOSS. Yes. I think we just acquired more over on the Maryland side recently, didn't we, or we started to acquire.

Mr. GUDE. Yes.