

Mr. McCLOSKEY. I want to ask you this: In the conversations with any of the people who contacted your Department was it discussed that if a permit was to be granted it should be granted soon before the Potomac River legislation could take effect?

Mr. BLACK. Oh, no, I certainly—that has never occurred to me until this moment.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. Why the sense of urgency? What urgency possibly could exist with the Federal Government as to having to push this thing through with this speed?

Mr. BLACK. Urgency only in the sense that this had been at issue for a long period of time and that pressures were building up. That there was strong opposition which had been expressed and some support had been expressed. I just simply didn't want to get caught in the middle, Mr. McCloskey, that is all. There was no feeling that on the merits of it, in my mind, the developers had to have this permit now.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. But they are the only ones really that would feel any "sense of urgency," wouldn't they?

Mr. BLACK. I don't think so.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. Well, let's enumerate those who, aside from the developers, would feel a "sense of urgency" to have this matter determined.

Mr. BLACK. The Corps of Engineers had had this pending. They were subjected to calls and pressures. I think that these are matters of degree. Urgency—I don't know that I would characterize it as "urgency." I wanted to get it resolved and it seemed to me with the time that we had spent on it, with the record that had been made, the opportunity for opponents to express their views to the Department, that it didn't do us credit to handle this in a bureaucratic fashion of delay and delay and create more and more argument. I didn't have any deadline that I set in my own mind to reach this, but I wanted to get it resolved. That was all.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. Well now, you have named, and I think you testified this afternoon and Dr. Cain testified this morning, that there were Congressmen on both sides, and as I understand it there were at least three who had made their displeasure known to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

Can you enumerate those Congressmen and Senators who had indicated that they favored the granting of this permit?

Mr. BLACK. The only Member of Congress who indicated that he was in favor of it was Senator Birch Bayh. Congressman Dingell, while he didn't favor it, had quite explicitly withdrawn his objections so he was, so far as that is concerned, withdrawn from the consideration.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. While the interest of Congressmen does not, and should not, affect your executive decision, I believe you testified you do keep a careful record of congressional inquiry and interest in matters of this kind; do you not?

Mr. BLACK. Let me say, if I said that the wishes of Congress do not influence our decisions, I want to beat a hasty retreat, because obviously they do. But this was an individual case. It did not involve legislation, and we had had the opportunity, as I say, to examine and,