

Did you consider that in making your decision?

Mr. BLACK. I considered that, but I did not agree that the conclusion followed that this permit would adversely affect this program or this concept.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. Mr. Hartzog went on to say:

The alterations of wetland areas and the consequent loss of natural values and environmental quality in an area where they are at a premium by virtue of riparian ownership could set a precedent which might have disastrous consequences along the Potomac estuary and elsewhere.

Did you consider that in reaching your decision?

Mr. BLACK. I considered all these things.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. But you overruled Director Hartzog on this point, did you not?

Mr. BLACK. No; I did not overrule him, because he was not making a decision, a National Park Service decision. He was communicating to the Secretary. As he explained it to me—I do not recall whether he explained it in testimony or not—I asked him what he meant by this letter, and he said that he just felt as an official in the Interior Department, it is his responsibility to note these items; that he was not purporting to act in an official capacity so far as his jurisdiction was concerned, and he just raised the question. I do not know how strongly he personally feels about it, but certainly we had to consider it.

The major consideration that I had in mind was, what is the impact on this whole area going to be? What is it going to do to our development of the Potomac? What is it going to do to our stature as a department of conservation if we do not resist this?

Mr. McCLOSKEY. But, Mr. Black, did you not earlier testify that the granting of this permit was inconsistent with the policy behind these two bills which the Department of the Interior had undertaken early this year to present to this Congress?

Mr. BLACK. I did not intend to—that it was inconsistent with the policy?

Mr. McCLOSKEY. You desired to preserve the Potomac from further intrusion.

Mr. BLACK. Yes, sir.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. That has been a policy of the Department of the Interior since the first of the year, has it not?

Mr. BLACK. Yes, sir.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. And yet you approved the granting of a permit to make a fill in the Potomac, and that granting is inconsistent with that policy, is it not?

Mr. BLACK. I do not think it is inconsistent with that policy because I do not think people can just say "the Potomac." I do not think that the Secretary's program contemplates an absolute prohibition of any further development in areas that are already built up. I do not consider it inconsistent with the type of conservation approach which we are making.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. Is it not a fact, Mr. Secretary—I want to refer you to a letter dated January 11, 1966, from the Regional Director for the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, Mr. T. Sutton Jett, a letter written to Mr. A. Z. Shows, 2108 Huntington Avenue,