

Hunting Creek, at a point on the northerly shore at Alexandria, Va. A copy of the revised plans of Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc., is attached.

Public notices were sent to all known interested parties on March 24, 1964. Objections were received from the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, several Congressmen, and various conservation interests. By letter of July 17, 1964, the applicants submitted revised plans reducing the areas of fill to about 19 acres. A copy of the revised plans were submitted to the objectors who in most instances reiterated their objections. The district engineer submitted his report on the application on September 16, 1964, and on November 20, 1964, the Chief of Engineers directed the district engineer to withhold issuance of the permits until the matter of the riparian rights of property under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service was settled, and then to hold a public hearing to further develop the facts in the case.

On October 10, 1967, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior informed the district engineer that granting of the applications on the basis of the revised plans would not significantly affect recreation or conservation values in the Hunting Creek area and accordingly withdrew the Department's objections. He indicated, however, that the Hunting Towers Operating Co., Inc., application might involve Federal property rights under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service which might eventually have to be resolved in court. Subsequently, Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc., requested that its application be processed since there is no riparian rights problem involved concerning its property. The agent for Hunting Towers Operating Co., Inc. indicated that the intent of that company could not be determined and their decision concerning their application would not be forthcoming in the foreseeable future. The Federal Water Pollution Control Administration in a letter dated December 15, 1967, advised that the project would not result in any adverse effects on water quality.

A public hearing to consider the application of Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc., only was held at Alexandria, Va., on February 21, 1968. Prior to the hearing the matter of the management of the existing Hunting Towers apartment development practicing racial discrimination in its rental policy was brought into the case.

At the hearing Congressman Reuss for himself and in behalf of Congressman Moss objected to the application on the basis that the project constituted a land grab, would destroy valuable conservation and park assets, contemplated housing on a racially discriminatory basis, and would seriously harm the public interest. Representatives of the Izaak Walton League of America, Audubon Society, Virginia Society of Ornithology, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Wilderness Society, Valley View Citizens' Association, the Sierra Club, the Northern Virginia Conservation Council, and concerned individuals opposed the application on the grounds that the recreational and fish and wildlife values of the area should be conserved. The Alexandria Branch, Washington Urban League, and the Alexandria Council on Human Relations opposed the project unless the apartment development would be open to all without regard to race, creed, or color.

The Bureaus of the Department of the Interior concerned with parks, conservation, recreation, and pollution have withdrawn any objections and have indicated that the project will not adversely affect the area from these standpoints. The National Park Service has no objection to Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc. application from a riparian rights standpoint. The Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League withdrew its objection to the work. The City of Alexandria has reached agreement with the applicant on engineering problems as related to flooding and sewage disposal considerations at the site. The applicant has stated that there is no connection between it and Hunting Towers Operating Co. and that it would not engage in racial discrimination practices in the operation of the facility. There is no objection to the proposed work from the standpoint of navigation.

The district and division engineers recommend that the permit be granted since the issues raised concerning riparian property rights, conservation, recreation, and pollution have been resolved insofar as the responsible Federal agencies are concerned, there is no objection to the proposed work from the standpoint of navigation, and the applicant has stated that the apartment development would be open to all without regard to race, creed, or color.

I concur in the views of the district and division engineers and had proposed to recommend to the Secretary of the Army that I be authorized to approve the application under the provisions of section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of March 3, 1899, and authorize the district engineer to issue the permit subject to