

current effort to acquire undeveloped land in Fairfax County in order to increase their tax base through commercial development of that land, still it might be worth drawing to your attention a remark made by a member of that council. At a meeting of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations held on February 26, 1968, Mr. Nicholas Colasanto, a member of the Alexandria City Council, stated publicly that the Alexandria City Council was already on record in opposition to the proposed project.

Should you wish any further information from me or from other residents of the Mount Vernon area, I would be most happy to be of service to you.

Very truly yours,

ROSS M. HARDTER,

Cochairman, Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations.

JUNE 18, 1968.

HON. ROBERT E. JONES,
Rayburn Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I have lived here at Hunting Towers for over 17 years and am so distressed over the proposed filling in of Hunting Creek. We had flocks of water birds that the building of Jones Point Bridge and the highway over the creek disturbed. Even so, we still have some, and with quiet, they will come back. The birds and fish need these inlets. The United States should preserve the natural beauty it has.

This statement to be included at the hearing, June 24, 1968, in regard to Hunting Creek.

Please do what you can to preserve the beauty of our river and the wildlife in the river's inlets.

Sincerely,

Mrs. HARRIS E. WILLINGHAM.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., June 19, 1968.

Re statement to be included in hearing on June 24, 1968, on Hunting Creek.

HON. ROBERT E. JONES,
Chairman, Natural Resources and Power Committee,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. JONES: It is with shocked regret that I find I must again participate in a citizens' effort to prevent the construction of a breakwater and high-rise apartment in the area known as Hunting Creek by the Hoffman Associates and others. The reasons for my objections are:

1. This is a desecration of an area presently providing sanctuary for thousands of waterfowl in the annual migration as well as for rare birds which nest and feed here throughout the year.

2. Construction of a high-rise apartment—and this is obviously the ultimate objective of the Hoffman Associates and their allies—would cause further desecration of the George Washington Memorial Parkway which was dedicated to the purpose of providing a magnificent approach to Mount Vernon, the national shrine in honor of our First Patriot. The last section, beginning at the southerly boundaries of Alexandria, should not become a commercial eyesore bringing with it attendant traffic congestion at the next-to-last magnificent view of the Potomac River before reaching the mansion.

Further, permission to encroach into the river at this time and in this manner with such construction would open the way for additional developments along the parkway on the same river route. Once approved, there will slowly develop a concrete corridor pressing in and closing out the river views and beauty of this most cherished drive on the last vital approach to Mount Vernon.

Is it not possible for the wishes and needs of the *People* to be considered over and above the selfish material interests of developers? The country is crying out against a megalopolis which is strangling and destroying the countryside. Cannot this area be saved? Why go into the river further?

The Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior have no right and no authority to reject in such a summary manner the clearly expressed objections to such action which have been formally made by many private citizens and the many groups and organizations representing thousands of concerned Americans. It appears to me that it is the responsibility of the Engineers, with approval of the Congress, to protect our waterways which are so vital to