

have to be turned on at the time you come up to speak. If we leave them on all the time, we get feedback through the public address system.

Further, I would like to say that the purpose of this hearing is not to arrive at and announce any decision today. We will hear the evidence presented today.

After this public hearing, we will investigate and examine this evidence and study it, and since this is obviously a rather controversial matter, this will be presented by me through my command channels to the Office of the Chief of Engineers for decision.

So there will possibly be quite some time before there is a decision made on the matter.

As a way of proceeding, I think perhaps to get us all off on the sound understanding of what is involved, I propose to call on representatives of the applicant to present their statement in support of their application.

I call on Mr. Bregman representing Hoffman Associates.

STATEMENT OF STANLEY IRWIN BREGMAN, REPRESENTING HOFFMAN ASSOCIATES

Mr. BREGMAN. Thank you, sir.

My name is Stanley Irwin Bregman. I am a law partner of the law firm of McCormack & Bregman, 1225 19th Street NW., Washington, D.C. I am a member of the bar of the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia. I represent the applicant in this matter.

The witnesses that we will present will cover the following issues:

Mr. Bernard Fagelson, attorney of the city of Alexandria, will present testimony on the status of the title of the property, the present status; also of the zoning of the property.

Mr. Ed Holland, the engineer on this project, will give testimony. I should say prior to his testimony, he will also elaborate on his experience as an engineer in general and in this specific area.

Also, he will give his experience on his work in the general area of conservation.

In his testimony, he will give a history of what is happening to Hunting Creek, to the Hunting Creek Basin over the last few years. His testimony will show that bulkheading and filling this property will not affect navigation. His testimony will show that by approving this application, you will be able to reduce pollution in the area and remove stagnation and siltation out to the main channel.

His testimony will also show, and some of it through visual evidence, that this application, when approved, will not significantly affect the wildlife in the area. And may I say that this particular issue has also been confirmed by the Department of the Interior, I believe, when they said they no longer had their riparian rights affected—stated that it would not significantly affect recreation and wildlife values in the area.

And may I say that the Interior Department under this administration has been one of the greatest champions of conservation in the history of the United States.

There is one other issue that I would like to address myself to before I sit down and present the witnesses.

Some people have chosen to interject into this hearing through newspaper statements, TV statements, and letters to Government officials the fact that other parties that are not the applicant in this hearing practice discrimination in their apartment projects.

So that there will not be a lot of meaningless talk later, and I know two Congressmen indicated they didn't want these hearings to be a waste of the taxpayers' money, and we completely agree with this—we don't want to have the record bogged up with a lot of irrelevant material—the record should now show that there is no association between the applicant and the contract owners of the land before us today, and Hunting Towers Operating Co. There is none, whatsoever.

The policy of the contract owners of this property in any of their projects—they have never once practiced discrimination, and as far as this project is concerned, let me state this, that any application that is received by them for any unit in this project will be examined on this basis: One, the applicant must have good moral character; and two, they must be able to meet the financial obligation created by the rent structure.

I can say emphatically and unequivocally that no applicant will either be accepted or rejected because of race, color, or creed. There will be no discrimination policy.

Now, I would like to ask for Mr. Fagelson to testify at this time, unless you have a question that you want to ask me.

Colonel RHEA. Go ahead.