

In fact, it plans a nature walk along the estuary itself. If these people are permitted to build their apartment, the principal outlook from this walk will be a line of apartment houses in an area which was formerly a part of the open waterways of the United States.

In addition, an unattractive, stagnant backwater might be well created between the fill and Jones Point.

The representatives of the National Capital Park Service concur in my view that the granting of this permit would be most prejudicial to the public interest.

Now let me turn to the policies of Hunting Towers on our Federal Government's laws and regulations against discrimination in housing.

I understand earlier this afternoon, it was said that there is no connection between Howard P. Hoffman Associates and Hunting Towers Associates.

In rebuttal of that statement, rather conclusive rebuttal because it is out of the mouth of the people who are now asserting that they have no connection, are letters dated February 28, 1967, to Congressman John Dingell, from Hunting Towers Associates, by Edward J. McRickard, partner; and a letter dated the same day from Howard P. Hoffman Associates, signed by Howard P. Hoffman, president.

These letters are identical in their language which, considering the testimony here earlier this afternoon that Hunting Towers and Howard P. Hoffman have no connection, represents one of the most remarkable coincidences in the history of Virginia jurisprudence.

The letter from Hunting Towers Associates to Congressman Dingell says:

"We have pending with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, two amended applications dated July 17, 1964, for permits to erect bulkheads in Hunting Creek, Alexandria, Va., in the names of Howard P. Hoffman Associates, Inc., and Hunting Towers Operating Co., Inc."

I interpolate at this point that the applicants themselves admit that they are confederates in this operation—

"The area embraced in each application is approximately 9.5 acres each, and not approximately 17 acres each, as embraced in the original applications.

"We hereby assure you that we will not further amend or alter these applications and that we intend to bulkhead and fill these areas and no others if such amended applications are approved.

"We further agree, if through the action of any Government agency to negotiate any modifications to the plans referred to above, we will notify you before we make or alter agreements or changes to the bulkhead and fill plans attached hereto if such action is required."

I ask the presiding officer to mark this as "Reuss' Exhibits A, B, C, and D" and I ask that it be received into the record.

(The documents referred to were marked by the presiding officer as "Reuss' Exhibits A, B, C, and D" which were then made a part of the record.)

Congressman REUSS. The statute which governs the Federal Government of the United States on discrimination in housing is the civil rights statute of April 9, 1866, whose language is clear and to the point:

"All citizens of the United States shall have the same right, in every State and Territory, as is enjoyed by white citizens thereof, to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property."

Just this month in the Supreme Court of the United States, the U.S. Department of Justice expressly affirmed and revived that 1866 law and points out here—and I am quoting from the Department of Justice's brief—this section: "Comes into play when official or unofficial action has the practical effect of so severely restricting Negroes * * * from renting or buying homes in an area that it may fairly be said that they no longer have the same right * * * as is enjoyed by white citizens * * * to * * * purchase and lease * * * real * * * property."

Now, the Corps of Engineers has but to refer to the records of the Department of Defense to be apprised of the fact that Hunting Towers is perhaps the most notorious practitioner of discrimination [sic] and against U.S. citizens of the Negro race in all of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Defense Department has repeatedly tried to get Hunting Towers apartments to let into even one of its 795 units one Negro serviceman who, having served his country in Vietnam, and is being discharged from service, or being re-assigned to Washington, would like a place to live.

The Defense Department has been summarily turned down. The same is true of private U.S. citizens who happen to be of the Negro race.