

The Northern Virginia Fair Housing Committee reports that Hunting Towers practices open and complete discrimination and won't even take the application of a Negro who seeks an apartment in Hunting Towers.

It is all very well to have an assertion that Hunting Towers has had a change of heart and in its expanded apartment to be built on the public domain by filling in the Potomac, it will cease to practice discrimination, one wonders how they can say that consistently with thumbing their nose at the Secretary of Defense, McNamara, which is precisely what they are doing today.

The taint of racial discrimination is alone enough to require rejection of this application.

On the other hand, even if no racial discrimination were involved, the proposed fill would be rejectable on the conservation grounds which I have just set forth.

The Federal Register for December 7, 1967, sets forth the general policies which shall guide the Corps of Engineers in the issuance of permits such as that here sought.

The Register states the decision as to whether a permit will be issued will be predicated upon the effect the permitted activity will have on the public interest.

I submit to this honorable body that the public interest will be disturbed and damaged by granting an application in that it will result in irreparable damages to conservation, both in destroying the last habitat of diving ducks in the Metropolitan Washington area, and in seriously affecting a proposed Jones Point Park, and it will further damage the public interest because it will reward the people who have been discriminating against the Federal law of 1866 which provides against discrimination on the ground of race in housing.

I shall be glad to answer any questions which the board may have.

Colonel RHEA. I have no questions, sir. This is not really a question and answer session. I hear statements from various individuals that desire to speak. We had over an hour of statements from representatives of the applicant and you were the first speaker to speak in opposition to the permits.

Congressman REUSS. Thank you.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you, sir.

I call on Mr. Cook, the city engineer of the city of Alexandria.

STATEMENT OF DAYTON L. COOK, REPRESENTING ALBERT M. HAIR, JR., CITY MANAGER

Mr. Cook. My name is Dayton L. Cook, city engineer, city of Alexandria. I am appearing here for Mr. Albert M. Hair, Jr., city manager.

You have previously received his letter of February 9, 1968, setting forth three conditions which the city would want from an engineering standpoint before it would want this proposal granted.

In order to be brief, I will just try to clarify this letter.

The written statement dated February 9, 1968, regarding the city of Alexandria taking a position with respect to this proposal pertains only to the engineering problems as related to flooding and sewage disposal considerations.

The city has taken no position with respect to the esthetic or conservation aspects of the proposal.

In so many words, the letter is strictly based on engineering problems that we would like taken care of before we would even be neutral.

We are not appearing either for or against the application on the esthetic or conservation aspects.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you.

Mr. Harris, legislative chairman, Virginia division, Izaak Walton League.

STATEMENT OF C. B. HARRIS, LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN, VIRGINIA DIVISION, IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

Mr. HARRIS. Colonel Rhea and ladies and gentlemen, members of the committee, I am C. B. Harris, resident of the city of Alexandria for the past 29 years.

During the years from 1929 until about 10 years ago, I hunted ducks in the Hunting Creek estuary and used the area for boating prior to the war.

I have seen what has taken place both in the past 10 years, over the past 10 years, yes—I have seen the wildlife disappear, as well as the recreational aspect.

I have no interest in the proposed application due to the nature of my business, only as a citizen and a representative of the Virginia division of the Izaak Walton League.