

When Congressman Moss and I wrote Mr. Cain on January 3 of this year asking whether he had any basis or had made any additional studies for his findings, he replied to Congressman Moss on January 11, 1968:

"Dear Mr. Moss:

"In reply to your letter of January 3, I can tell you that I did make a judgment without any additional studies of the fish and wildlife values at the site."

I accordingly offer exhibit F, being a letter from Congressman Moss to Assistant Secretary Cain, dated January 3 and exhibit G, being Assistant Secretary Cain's reply.

So, in answer to your question, the men in the Department of the Interior know who are very much opposed to this.

The mere fact that somewhere up the hierarchy in the Department of the Interior, the applicants were able to find someone who would give them a green light—

Colonel RHEA. Gentlemen, will you wait just a minute?

Congressman, I am sorry, but we are going to have to stop this line. As I stated at the beginning, each side can present his views and I don't think we are going to accomplish anything by this questioning back and forth.

I have Secretary Cain's letter. I invited him to come. He wrote a letter back and said he did not feel it was worthwhile for him to come.

I have your statement, Mr. Bregman, that we have for the record, that you are not connected with Hunting Towers.

We have your statement that you will not practice discrimination.

The Congressman has presented other evidence or other indications that he feels that indicate that there are contrary situations.

We will examine this matter and review it and I think by public debate obviously, you are on opposite sides of the issue and debating here in front of all this group is not going to accomplish anything.

So I would like to go on and hear from the other witnesses.

Mr. BREGMAN. Can I introduce one more exhibit from the Secretary of the Interior to Governor Godwin?

Colonel RHEA. To clear up the matter, the letter from Secretary Cain to me dated October 10, 1967, does say that in response to these public notices, the Park Service and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife advise the Corps of Engineers of their opposition to the granting of the requested permits on the grounds that the construction of the proposed bulkhead and fill would adversely affect fish and wildlife, park, and recreational values in the area, and might adversely affect the riparian rights of the United States as owner of the area in Alexandria, Va., known as Jones Point.

Revised applications filed in July 1964 which reduced the area of the proposed fill were reviewed by the same two bureaus of this Department and were opposed on the same basis as the original applications.

However, since that time, we have reconsidered our interest in this matter and in the light of existing conditions in the area, we have concluded that the granting of the applications would not significantly affect recreation or conservation values in the Hunting Creek area. Accordingly, we withdraw the objections interposed to the granting of permits in accordance with the revised applications.

This withdrawal is subject to the following understanding:

The frontage of the federally owned land at Jones Point extends from the Maryland-Virginia boundary to the east line of South Royal Street.

Our lawyers have advised us that it is their best judgment that the Federal property interests extend to a westerly boundary line which follows the east line of South Royal Street, projected southerly into Hunting Creek.

They also advise that the assertion of title to this land by this Department is not entirely free of question since conditions in Hunting Creek have changed and are changing so radically that it may be ultimately resolved only by a court of law.

There are enclosed marked prints of the revised plans accompanying your public notice of July 1964, bearing our map file number, such and such, and showing this asserted interest of the United States in red.

There is also enclosed a map prepared by the National Capital Region, National Park Service, entitled "National Park Service Boundary, Hunting Creek, George Washington Memorial Parkway, NCR 117.5-708," showing our latest survey of the mean low-water line in Hunting Creek or Jones Point Park, together with other pertinent information.