

The marked map indicated that the matter of the title to the line that would be affected when and if Hunting Towers Associates ever asked us to proceed with their application, that the Park Service perhaps still has some claim to that land. It did not so indicate that the land in application here today, which is for Hoffman Associates.

Mr. Penfold, conservation director of the Izaak Walton League of America.

STATEMENT OF J. W. PENFOLD, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR, IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Mr. PENFOLD. Colonel Rhea and gentlemen, I am J. W. Penfold, conservation director of the Izaak Walton League of America.

I would just like to make a point. I am a staff man employed by the national organization of the league.

My office is in Washington. My home is in Virginia.

I do not have a prepared statement, but will speak briefly from notes.

Certain of my remarks which relate to the basic policies of the Izaak Walton League will be to urge that the application for permit which is now before you be denied.

The issue is just not local for Alexandria, nor just of State interest to the Commonwealth, but is of national concern.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in this small project, as in major projects, represents and is responsible to the people of the Nation as a whole.

The project affects the Potomac estuary which of itself is interstate in character.

Representative John D. Dingell of Michigan stated in connection with his estuary study bill, H.R. 25, which passed the House just the week before last, stated that "Estuaries are rich in fish and wildlife. They are an invaluable and irreplaceable resource of enjoyment for recreation, sport, commercial fishing, for the national, natural irreplaceable beauty. However, because of the rapid extension of cities, urban areas and commercial enterprises, these valuable estuarine areas are rapidly disappearing from the face of this earth. Once they disappear, they are gone forever."

It is our responsibility to act now to save our remaining estuarine areas.

Also, the oceanographic panel of the President's Scientific Advisory Committee reported that:

"Almost half of our population lives near the margins of the ocean or the Great Lakes. The near-shore environment is thus of critical importance."

This environment is being radically modified by human activities in ways that are unknown and detailed, but broadly undesirable.

Deliberate modifications of the coastlines, such as channel dredging for marinas, shoreline modifications for beach stabilization and filling in marsh area for development purposes, poses serious problems.

These modifications are occurring in estuaries which are important natural resources for recreation and food production.

Congressman Herbert Tenzer of New York had this to say:

On the south shore of Long Island in 1936, we had 30,000 acres of wetlands. Today, there are less than 16,000 acres left.

We have studied the subject matter long enough.

A chance to walk, to row a boat, to swim, hunt, fish, picnic, or merely observe the natural world—all these must be provided for and can be, even within close range of the asphalt jungles we know so well.

What I am referring to now are human resources. These resources must be protected; otherwise, what heritage will we leave to our children other than a filled-in bay, a polluted stream or bone fragments in a museum.

Man can do better; man must do better.

A few more statistics point out the accuracy of these statements.

Of the tidal wetlands along the North Atlantic coast, from Maine to Delaware, 45,000 acres of marshland were destroyed in the 10-year period, 1955 to 1964. An inventory kept for the last 5 of those years shows that 34 percent of the marshes were lost to deposition of dredge spoil, 27 percent to fill for housing development; 15 percent for recreational development—parks, marinas, and so forth; 10 percent, bridges, roads, parking lots, airports, and so forth.

Estimates of losses due to dredging and filling along the estuaries run about like this. On the east coast, including Florida, 165,400; the gulf coast, 71,500; the west coast, 261,900.