

forms of wildlife live, realize we must preserve some of the marshland in order to lead to the continued life of many species, not just birds, but animals, fish, and other associated species in this area.

Without going into any further detail, I would support what has been said by the Congressman and by the representatives of the Izaak Walton League, and I will present to the chairman a written copy.

Thank you.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you.

(The statement offered by Mr. Abbott is as follows:)

"What will be the future of Hunting Creek Bay at the southeast corner of the city of Alexandria, Va.? The bay, east of George Washington Memorial Boulevard, is all that is left of what was northern Virginia's prime goose and duck wintering area. The extensive Hunting Creek Marsh, which extended east of the boulevard for nearly 3 miles, has been completely filled in on the north side by the city of Alexandria as a dump and on the south side by the county of Fairfax for apartments, motels, and other commercial uses. Despite this ruination of the marshland associated with the Hunting Creek Bay, the wildfowl continue to inhabit Hunting Creek Bay.

"The current problem involves the desire of developers to further encroach on the remaining wildfowl area by filling in several acres of what is now tidal flat and marsh edge on the south side of Jones Point, on the north side of Hunting Creek Bay, and immediately adjacent to the public park which the city of Alexandria has earmarked for Jones Point, to construct high-rise apartments on the proposed fill. The developers claim that this terrain is otherwise 'worthless'; that no wildlife is attracted to this 'polluted' area (a sewage disposal plant is located just upstream from the mouth of Hunting Creek), and that the city of Alexandria will realize considerable tax dollars from their proposed reclamation of this 'wasteland.'

"The conservationist element of our local society strongly opposes the proposed development and contradicts the developer's claim that the area is unattractive to wildlife. I have been a local resident for the past 22 years and have 'worked' the Hunting Creek/Jones Point area as a naturalist and bird watcher on an average of 2 hours a week throughout the year, not only by myself, but as a leader of field trips for the area's Boy Scouts, schools, and natural history-oriented organizations. We find that although the Hunting Creek Marsh and mudflat between Jefferson Davis Highway and the boulevard have been obliterated in the past 10 years, the Hunting Creek Bay area (where the development is proposed) still attracts some 30 species of waterfowl, 10 species of gulls and terns, three species of rails, and 20 species of shore birds annually. In the fall of 1967, there were four duck hunters' blinds built in the bay; what better proof is needed that the area is still attractive to waterfowl?

"The little fringe of mudflat and marsh where the development is proposed is one of the few remaining spots in the area where one can still find the woodcock and long-billed marsh wren in summer and the snipe in winter. Along with a wintering population in 1967-68 of some 5,000 ducks, a whistling swan appeared in mid-November 1967 and is still present.

"Many people do not seem to care if all our land is rearranged, filled in, paved, and built up by man. However, the majority of people in any community, large or small, want and need a few acres of their environment left in a natural state so that parents can show their children what a cattail looks like, what a mud turtle is, and can enjoy a piece of nature that man hasn't completely spoiled. The places where one can do this in Alexandria have narrowed down to the Jones Point Park-Hunting Creek Bay area."

Colonel RHEA. Mr. Montague, of the Northern Virginia Conservation Council. Mr. Bates, Alexandria branch, Washington Urban League.

STATEMENT OF MISS JOAN W. BRACKETT, ON BEHALF OF ALEXANDRIA BRANCH,
WASHINGTON URBAN LEAGUE

Miss BRACKETT. I am not Mr. Bates, obviously. He has stepped out for a moment and asked me to speak on his behalf.

I am also a member of the board of the Washington Urban League—Joan Brackett.

The statements are at this time: The Advisory Council of the Washington Urban League requests the city council to approve plans for building on the