

land of the Hunting Towers Apartments only if suitable commitments are made by the developers that the facility to be built will be open to all, regardless of race, creed, or color;

Secondly, that the Advisory Council of the Washington Urban League requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to undertake to fill land at Hunting Towers Apartments only if facilities built thereon will be open to all regardless of race, creed, or color.

Thank you.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you.

Mrs. Julian Smith, Daughters of the American Revolution.

STATEMENT OF MRS. JULIAN SMITH, REPRESENTING MOUNT VERNON CHAPTER,
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Mrs. SMITH. Colonel Rhea, gentlemen, I am Mrs. Julian C. Smith. I am a past regent of the Mount Vernon chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and I am here to represent them on two points.

I think, first because the Daughters of the American Revolution feel that they have a just right to speak today because the Jones Point Lighthouse, which is the oldest inland lighthouse in the United States, was deeded to our chapter in 1924, and we kept it in good repair until, during the war, it was a war casualty and it was the point from which all the messages went overseas. It was taken over by the Army. It was then returned to us in very bad condition. We did what we could to restore it. But recently—I have no fault to find with the Army—it was a war casualty—and it was a communications corps, whatever it was, but we have no fault to find with that—but we found that we were not going to be able to keep it in the kind of repair that it should be because we felt that that area around Jones Point really belonged to the public and it did not only belong to the State of Virginia, but to everyone who goes up and down to visit Mount Vernon, for which our chapter was named, and to visit the other beautiful sights of interest.

Because the tourist trade in the State of Virginia is one of its biggest trades, and when we destroy that, we are destroying something commercially, I am sure that the people who are representing here the building of these apartments have also the economy of Virginia and Alexandria in mind.

But there is no use to try to encourage it on one hand and destroy it on the other.

About 3 years ago, the Mount Vernon chapter—this lighthouse was deeded to us by act of Congress, so we had to go back to Congress and get permission to redeed it, and we did—we redeeded it to the Park Service under the Department of the Interior with the understanding that it would be used as a park area.

Our interest here is that if and when that is ever done, the closing of this little estuary which we know is full of ducks, because we go down there quite often, would destroy a lot of the park area there which, as it has been brought out, is the last of the park area that is left south of Alexandria.

That has already been, I think, pointed out, that there are birds there, but I would be very much remiss if I didn't represent two women who called me personally and asked me to speak for them. They are residents of Hunting Towers and they overlook this little estuary. They are older women and they say that their greatest pleasure is to watch the birds come in and I daresay that they, too, could take pictures of when that estuary was full of birds because there are times that there are no birds there. But there are times that they are definitely there and I am sure that if the birds were not there, Mrs. John Ashton and Mrs. Willingham would not have called me and asked me, please, to put in a plea for them not to destroy the beautiful view from the window. If the view is from the window, then it also is from the ground, and as a representative of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mount Vernon chapter, I am appealing to you purely as a conservationist because we are great conservationists and also in behalf of our little Jones Point Lighthouse which we are afraid is going to be destroyed. It was built in 1850. We are desperately afraid that it will be ruined.

Thank you for this time to speak.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you.

Mr. Wright of the Wilderness Society.