

The Royal Street sewer empties into this area and at a time of rain, the sewage piles into it and it will be banked up by this fill and create a cesspool.

I thank you.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you, sir.

Mrs. John Connelly.

STATEMENT OF MRS. JOHN W. CONNELLY, JR.

MRS. CONNELLY. I did not come with any prepared statement. I am Mrs. John W. Connelly. I live at Hunting Towers. I am a member of the National Society of Colonial Dames. I am a life member of the Audubon Society.

I hope that all of you who go down the boulevard will pause to think if you stopped at Hunting Towers and looked across Mount Vernon, across the Potomac River, this would be the last major open spot until you come to Mount Vernon, with the exception of two other viewpoints, one of them of parks, and the Government has preserved and developed the Mount Vernon Parkway on both sides of the river.

If we put another monstrous 150-foot building, or whatever it is, the whole access of view downriver will be stopped and this, again, is progress ruining nature.

I also speak for the wildlife which are there. I look every day from my window in the morning when I get up at 6 and see the sunrise, until the evening when I come in. The whistling swan has been there for 4 to 5 months. The birds and the ducks which we have had for many years have been there in great quantities. They are not there now because of the fill from silt which has come in, for whatever reason it may be, the garbage. I say that the opposition has clearly defined the cause and effect of the tragic situation we have. I think it is the responsibility of the Corps of Engineers to preserve not only the interests of the people of this country, but again, for the natural resources which we have, and they are the great abundance and great need in this area of cement and noise and pollution.

Thank you.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you.

Mr. Bryan, Kirk Bryan.

Mr. Bodine.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT N. BODINE, JR.

Mr. BODINE. Colonel Rhea, gentlemen, my name is Robert N. Bodine, Jr. I am a resident of Fairfax County.

So much of this has not been germane and my comments are not germane to the statement that you made, Colonel. This comes to us, the Corps of Engineers, because of laws that pertain to navigation.

I am in complete agreement with Congressman Reuss in doing everything I can to prevent the salvage of land, the accretion, the legal term being accretion out to the channels of the Potomac River. The Corps of Engineers can save millions of dollars on the money, on dredging the Potomac River, by letting the developers go right out to the edge of the bank.

There are other things which impinge upon the Corps of Engineers in their other activities other than the Harbors Act and I would like to point out two of these to you.

On the proposed plan, on the back of the notice of this hearing, it is noted that the fill area is to be an average elevation of 0.6 foot, based on datum of mean low water level. Mean sea level is 1.4 feet higher than the datum used.

The U.S. Geological Survey have recently technically established the tidal flood plain on the estuary bank of Hunting Creek in Fairfax County. I believe Alexandria was a participant and I believe they were recipients of this data. I am not sure of this. I know it is the case in Fairfax County.

The study was based on the historical flood data supplied to them by the Corps of Engineers. The flood plain is established at 9.8 feet above mean sea level on the 100-year frequency. Thus, if my arithmetic is correct, whatever land use is to be proposed on this tract, if it is filled, to the specified level, whatever land use is to be proposed on this tract of 8 acres has a 1-percent chance of annually being flooded with 5.6 feet of water.

I would hope that the corps will project ahead and be prepared for requests from the owners of this proposed fill for future appropriations of Federal money for flood protection facilities similar to those requests heard so recently by you, Colonel Rhea, at recent public hearings concerning Cameron Run, Holmes Run, and Four Mile Run.