

I have one other point. My first job—I lived in Washington from 1938 to 1942—my first job was as timekeeper on Gravelly Point Airport. This was a marvelous use. This took the sand, sediment, and gravel out of the Potomac and put it to a very, very efficient use.

We have another use for the Potomac River. Somebody has mentioned this fill would make a cesspool of the Potomac River. The Potomac River is now a cesspool. The President has stated what he wants, a model Potomac River. Of course, it hasn't been implemented all the way and those of us that are conservationists keep dreaming about the area of extent of the Potomac River that was rated 2 years ago of having assimilative capacity of 120,000 BOD a day.

Each acre of this water area that is consumed, and if this goes, there will be more legal work—that is, accretion, sessions of the legislature in Virginia, the Governor giving the land to private interests—I am very interested that the area of the Potomac River is not diminished. This area is invaluable to us. As the area goes, either the pollution goes downstream or the quality of water diminishes, and the area of the river that is exposed to sunlight, photosynthesis, is a vital asset to us only replaceable by the creation, the improvement of sewage treatment plant which costs us all money as taxpayers.

We are losing a valuable asset to a private public interest in this case—perfectly legal as explained by Mr. Bregman.

Thank you.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you.

Mr. Bodine, when I was remarking to Mr. Shows about, or somebody mentioned that we were going to fill, I was pointing out that the original law that puts us into the business of receiving applications for permits was basically a navigation law, section 10.

Mr. BODINE. From the Great Lakes.

Colonel RHEA (continuing). The act of 1899.

We also have other interests.

As I pointed out in my opening statement, we are now in accord with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and with memorandum of understanding between the Secretary of the Army and Secretary of the Interior, we consider these applications from the overall public interest.

Mr. BODINE. Right, sir.

Colonel RHEA. We also have flood plain management responsibility and we get into flood control, as you have inferred, and you have brought up an interesting point in relation to this possibility of flooding which we will probably have to look into.

Mr. BODINE. I am very concerned on the domino effect on the site. To me, it is totally destroyed, and to me—I am not a professional in the wildlife bit—this is something that the Alexandria sewage plant and the construction of Route 495 has defaced. It is going on. It is going down further. There has been much talk here about saving the land to the south. I will not certainly argue, not with Mr. Abbott, because Mr. Abbott observes this, but the area to the south, adjacent to the large portion of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Fairfax County, is under permit from the National Park Service to the Potomac Sand & Gravel Co. as a gravel operation. It is actively being graded. A photograph a month from now shows much less marsh area than now. Gravel is being taken out of there and used commercially.

The effect of saving that area is being impinged on again by another Federal action of granting a permit for sand and gravel removal, sir.

Thank you. It is a great interrelationship.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you.

Mr. Holland.

Mr. HOLLAND. The last gentleman raised a correct and exact technical point. I would like to give him an exact answer and have it in the record at this time.

The top of the bulkhead is 5 feet and a fraction. However, the city of Alexandria has very specific regulations. Any structure must have its openings to the outside. Any door, window, opening, must be not less than 13 feet above mean sea level, which is their datum rather than the corps' datum which means in terms of the corps' datum 14.3 feet above sea level. That is a precise fact, sir.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you, Mr. Holland.

Mrs. Fuller, Belle Haven Garden Club. Mrs. Irwin, I believe it is.

That seems to be all the slips I have.

Did Mrs. Colton leave?