

# DOUGLAS URGES C&O CANAL PARK

HANCOCK, Md. April 25-26—Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, at the 15th annual meeting of the C&O Canal Association, urged its members to concentrate on making the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal a national park—"something," he said, "which is politically feasible."

"The time has come," Justice Douglas said, "to zero in on this one thing. Then we can go on to something else. But if the something else is mixed in with the immediate objective," he warned, "nothing will be accomplished, and the C&O Canal Association will still be passing the same resolutions 10 years from now."

Resolutions passed by the Association at the Friday night

business meeting urged:

1. Prompt establishment of a C&O Canal National Historical Park, no Army-type dams on the Potomac River, and supply of water to the District of Columbia through an intake at the freshwater estuary.

2. Enactment of a bill recently introduced by U.S. Senator Charles McC. Mathias which would make the C&O Canal National Monument a national park, and expand its 5,250 acres to a maximum of 15,000 acres. (Mathias had earlier commented that establishment of the national historical park could be the first step in the comprehensive development of the Potomac River basin by Federal, State and local agencies.)

See DOUGLAS, Page 2



Photo by Jack Rottier

JUSTICE AND MRS. WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS chat with fellow hikers on the C&O towpath at the 15th Annual Reunion of the C&O Canal Association.

# C.&O. CANALLER

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## Key Bills Introduced In 91st Congress

EVERY MEMBER of the C&O Canal Association should become familiar with provisions of the following bills presently before the 91st Congress.

- S-1859 (Potomac River)  
Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. (R-Md.)
- HR-658 (C&O Canal) & HR-10353 (Potomac River)  
Congressman John P. Saylor (R-Pa.)
- HR-11988 (C&O Canal) & HR-11943 (Potomac River)  
Congressman Gilbert Gude (R-Md.)
- HR-10316 (Corps of Engineers to engage in public works for waste water purification and reuse)  
Congressman Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.)

Write for copies of these bills. Then let each Congressional sponsor have the benefit of your constructive suggestions and an indication of your support. U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Or TELEPHONE: Area Code 202--224-3121-U.S. Capitol.

## CITY OF CUMBERLAND TO HONOR-ORIGINAL 1954 HIKERS OCTOBER 18

On behalf of the City of Cumberland, Maryland, Mayor Thomas F. Conlon has announced that a Civic Testimonial Dinner will be held Saturday evening, October 18, in honor of the original hikers of the "Justice Douglas Washington Post Hike" along the C&O Canal from Cumberland to Washington in April 1954.

All conservationists, outdoorsmen, and friends of the C&O Canal are urged to attend. Principal hosts for the occasion will be the Chamber of Commerce for the City of Cumberland, the Western Maryland Central Labor Council, Operation Gateway, the Allegany County Economic Development Corporation, and the local chapter of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association.

Tentative plans call for a special railroad car leaving early Saturday morning from Union Station in Washington, with an additional pickup stop at Silver Spring.

Ample time has been set aside Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning for various local hikes and tours featuring the natural historical, recreational and

industrial features of the Cumberland Valley. And don't forget the "fall colors" which should be at their best this time of year.

It is fairly certain that Saturday night's testimonial banquet will be held at the beautiful new Bishop Walsh High School, strategically located on a high hill overlooking the City of Cumberland and the surrounding Maryland countryside. Plans also call for return to Washington by train with departure from Cumberland late Sunday afternoon.

Final details, including a complete itinerary, cost of the banquet, box lunches, railroad fare, and other items of interest will be announced by letter to all C&O Canallers. Do we have your correct address?

Be sure to read our NO-DAM PLAN, page 3. Significantly, pumping water from the Potomac Estuary to augment municipal supply during droughts was belatedly declared feasible & approved by Metropolitan Washington Council of Govts., July 10, 1969.

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Address Correction Requested

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# Douglas Calls For C&O Canal Park

3. Support of a Potomac National River in principle.

On Saturday morning Justice and Mrs. Douglas led some 500 hikers on a 13-mile walk along the towpath from Fort Frederick to Hancock. Under the watchful eye of Mrs. Cathy Douglas, the Justice was faithful to the caveat of his doctors to rest for 10 minutes after each hour's walk. For veteran C&O Canal hikers this was a noticeable—somewhat welcome—change from the grueling pace set by the Justice during the previous 16 years.

Each spring, the Association covers a token distance along the old C&O towpath in honor of the hike made by Justice Douglas in 1954. At that time, he challenged the editors of the Washington Post to hike

the entire 184-mile distance with him from Cumberland to Georgetown—to call attention to the scenic and historic values of the old canal and to protest against a proposed parkway that would have destroyed portions of the canal.

At the traditional Saturday night banquet, Justice Douglas said: "Conservationists are for the Potomac National River, in principle, but first, let us proceed with establishment of the C&O Canal Park."

He then renewed his criticism of the Corps of Engineers for their insistence on building dams on the Potomac and its tributaries—dams that would flood out much of the area proposed to be encompassed by the park.

"There is plenty of water in the freshwater estuary below Washington to take care of the water needs indefinitely," Justice Douglas declared. "All that is needed is to clean up the Potomac."

With reference to the policy of the Agriculture Department of paying farmers not to plant crops, he asked: "Why don't we pay the Engineers not to build dams?"

"Let's put them to work building sewage treatment plants instead," he challenged. "If they should show the same enthusiasm in building purification facilities as they have shown in building dams, they would become useful and commendable members of our society. Let's give the Engineers the needed authority to perform this worthy service."

## THE MATHIAS BILL - "TOKEN OF A GREAT FUTURE"

A Washington Post Editorial

The C and O Canal Association's annual hike on the historic towpath last weekend came at a time when interest in the Potomac River is probably at an all-time peak. The people of this area are well aware of the necessity of cleaning up the river and of converting its shores into a natural

playground if a proper environment for the future is to be preserved. Yet there is also realization that the outlook for enactment of a comprehensive Potomac River bill this year is not very favorable.

In the circumstances there is a strong disposition to concentrate efforts on the creation of a Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park as the first step in a more comprehensive program. Senator Mathias of Maryland has introduced an admirable bill for this purpose. It would authorize the creation of a park of not more than 15,000 acres, including the canal property already in the hands

of the National Park Service. Since the narrow strip now publicly owned, including the canal and the towpath, consists of 5250 acres, this would mean the addition of 9750 acres to the park by means of purchase, donation, lease or easements.

Additional space is imperative; campgrounds, sites for picnicking, parking and so forth cannot be provided in the cramped space now available. This is why, even in a year of restricted authorizations and expenditures for parks, Congress should pass the C and O bill as a token of a great future for recreation along the Potomac.



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### MEMBERSHIP RATES

\$3-Regular, \$5-Sustaining, \$10 (or more)-Patron. Membership includes subscription to the C&O Canaller.

Mail application to: Mr. Douglas Lindsay, Jr., Secretary, C&O Canal Association, 532 Fifth Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

## Gude Moves to Protect Potomac Basin

(Courtesy of the Washington Post)

Rep. Gilbert Gude (R-Md.) has introduced two bills in the House aimed at making a vast area of the Potomac River basin a Federal recreation area and a preserve.

Comparable bills to both proposals have been introduced in the Senate, the Congressman said at a news conference.

The first of the two proposals would establish a 15,000-acre "Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Park" that would include the present Chesapeake and Ohio National Monument area.

The Canal runs parallel to the Potomac from Washington to Cumberland, Md.

The second bill proposes the far more extensive establishment of a 68,000-acre Potomac National River area extending up the river into West Virginia.

Acquiring land for the park would cost between \$12 and \$15 million, he estimated, versus more than \$65 million for the National River.

Gude said the park proposal might serve

as a first step, or "prelude" to the setting up of a National River Area. Some action was needed, he said before the Potomac became the equivalent of an "open storm drain."

He said that while his National River bill was similar to the one already introduced in the Senate, his took cognizance of the fact that the Potomac is in a settled area. Other National River legislation that was used as a model for the Senate bill was for western rivers still in their more or less natural state, he said.

He said his bill also includes more liberal leaseback arrangements to allow people to retain summer homes in the region. It also increases Maryland's representation on the commission supervising the area, and adds representative of conservation groups to the commission, he said.

Also, Gude's park bill provides specifically for the acquisition of the Glen Echo amusement park tract.

# Fosdick Proposes No-Dam Plan

WELL, another dry spell for Washington. And wouldn't you know it? Time to dust off those big dam and reservoir plans again, and point to public apathy that stands in the way of this panacea for all the water woes of the Potomac Valley.

Can't really blame 'em for trying. But—before we take those plans too seriously—let's look at a less costly alternative that promises:

- No damage to the ecology of the Potomac basin.
- No destruction of its historic values.
- No desecration of its natural beauty.
- No lengthy construction delays—four to six years for a large reservoir.
- No massive inroads on the public purse.
- No more water shortage, once the alternative has been adopted and construction has been completed—a matter of a few months.

## THE ESTUARY PLAN

Last year, Ellery Fosdick, a highly respected international consulting engineer, completed for the National Parks Association, a preliminary study on "The Potomac River Estuary as a Supplemental Source of Municipal Water for the Washington Metropolitan Region" (WMR). The idea was originally suggested at one of the annual reunions of the C&O Canal Association, following which the NPA agreed to finance the study. If you haven't yet read this report, by all means write to the NPA, 1701 - 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, and ask for a copy.

It is by far the most feasible, the least complicated and has the lowest price tag of any of the water resource plans for the WMR that we have seen to date.

For the fifteen years of its existence, your C&O Canal Association has consistently and successfully opposed numerous proposals to construct large dams and reservoirs in the Potomac River Basin. Primarily, we have been concerned about the adverse effects such massive structures would have on the ecology of the basin—factors which we consider to be of equal or greater importance than the economics of such proposals.

But what about the need of the WMR for a continuing adequate supply of municipal water? True, this might be obtained by construction of the 16 major dams and reservoirs proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—but at what a tragic loss of natural and historical resources, and at what an exorbitant and unnecessary expense.

Significantly, such proposals were not planned primarily to provide the supplemental water needs of the WMR during occasional low-flow periods. On the contrary, these proposals are primarily con-

cerned with augmenting the low-flow of the Potomac River in order to dilute pollutants in the stream and estuary.

But, why build dams and reservoirs for this purpose when, under the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the need for pollution abatement by such low-flow augmentation will be reduced or perhaps eliminated in both the river and its tributaries? (In this frame of reference, the Association heartily endorses HR-10316 (Reuss), which would authorize the Corps of Engineers to engage in public works for waste water purification and reuse.)

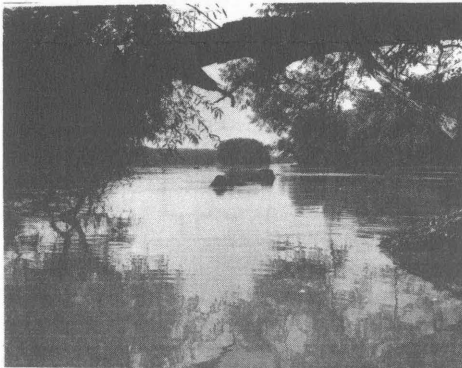


Photo by Abbie Rowe

In essence, Fosdick's plan explores the technical and economic feasibility of utilizing fresh water found in natural storage in the upper estuary of the Potomac to supply the emergency requirements of the WMR during occasional low-flow periods of the river. It proposes construction of a pumping station just below Little Falls. (See DIAGRAM, Page 4.)

## CONCLUSIONS

Of the many significant conclusions drawn in this report, space permits us to mention only the following highlights:

- The 100 billion gallons of fresh water in the estuary is more than adequate to meet the maximum forecast net requirement of 38.7 billion gallons for supplemental water during the low-flow months of July and August for the year 2010.

- A major portion of the municipal water requirement of the WMR must continue to be supplied from the Potomac River, as no other major source is available.

- The discharge of the Potomac River near Washington, D.C. which now supplies a major part of the municipal water for the region will continue to be more than adequate for the municipal water requirements at all times for many years into the future under the worst drought recorded to date—except for a period of about three months during the summer, in occasional years, when additional water will be needed.

The feasibility of augmenting the water supply in this way is indicated by the fact that, during the 1966 drought, plans were

actually made by the Washington Aqueduct to install such facilities—although these plans were dropped as soon as the drought subsided.

- Fresh water in natural storage in the estuary is largely composed of the same kind of water which is now used for a major part of the municipal water supply in the WMR. The discharge of the Potomac River into the estuary is sufficiently large during every year so that the upper estuary is thoroughly flushed several times.

Many people have the idea that brackish water in the upper estuary will move upstream when water is pumped for municipal use. However, this is not the case, because the volume of waste water returned will actually be greater. This is so because the waste water includes a major portion of the water pumped from the estuary, together with water imported into the Potomac River basin and a relatively small amount of water from other sources.

- It is likely that no supplemental water at all will be needed in 27 out of the 40 years from 1970 to 2010. This makes it difficult to justify the construction of massive dams and reservoirs for this purpose when a less expensive estuary pumping system will suffice.

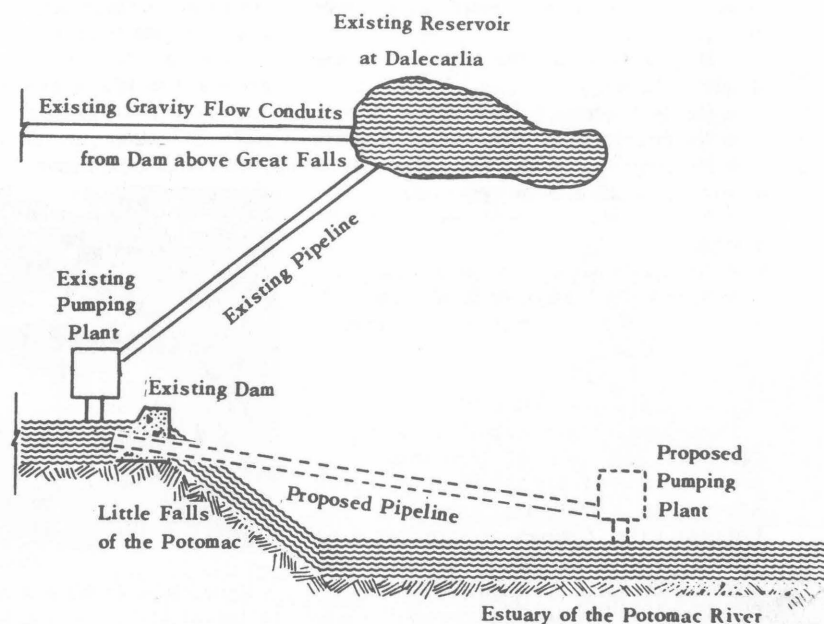
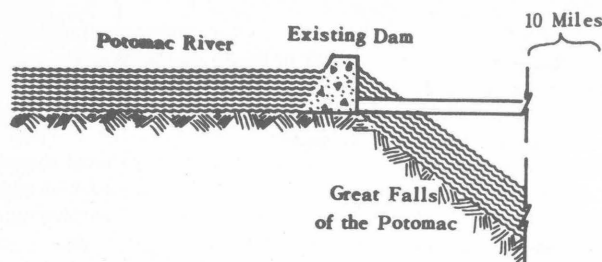
- Construction costs: Phase I of the proposed pumping plants for the Washington Aqueduct with a capacity of 400 million gallons a day would cost an estimated \$4.7 million. The cost of Phase 2, with an additional 400 million gallons a day capacity would be approximately \$4 million. This is only a fraction of the \$393.3 million (1962 price index) required to construct 16 major dams and reservoirs that have been proposed to regulate the flow of the Potomac River—not to mention their adverse effect upon the ecology of the entire river basin.

- Cost of operations: Total annual cost for the pumping plant of the Washington Aqueduct in low-water years would rise from \$379 thousand in 1970-80 to \$544 thousand by 2010 as the amount of electric power used for pumping increases. Again, this is only a fraction of the \$20.8 million average annual cost estimated for the 16 major dams and reservoirs proposed.

- Capacity: The initial capacity of the proposed Washington Aqueduct Pumping Plant should be 400 million gallons a day to take advantage of lower costs with large size, although this capacity will not be fully used for over 20 years. At that time, an additional 400 million gallons a day of capacity should be installed. This capacity allows for a minimum flow from Great Falls to the estuary of 100 million gallons a day, the all-time minimum flow that occurred over Little Falls in 1966. (This flow down the river channel is considered necessary to avoid an adverse effect upon the ecology of the area.)



# Potomac Estuary Plan



The practical simplicity of the Potomac Estuary Plan is clearly demonstrated in this schematic profile by Ellery Fosdick which shows existing and proposed facilities for supplying municipal water to the Washington Aqueduct—the major supplier

of water in the Washington Metropolitan Region (MWR).

During occasional periods of low flow, the use of water held in natural storage in the upper estuary—rather than resorting to regulation of the Potomac River flow

by manmade reservoirs—would avoid the adverse effects of large dams and reservoirs upon the environment of the Potomac River Basin, and do so at a fraction of their cost.

## C&O CANAL LEVEL WALKERS REORGANIZING

At the April 27 meeting of the C&O Canal Association, Captain Thomas Hahn (USNR), suggested that it would be a good idea to revive the old "Level Walkers" group. The response was overwhelming—to the point of everyone agreeing that Captain Tom be unanimously "volunteered" as our new Level Walker Chairman.

However, before Tom can make any real progress, he must first find out what Level Walkers are currently assigned to what sections of the Canal. Unfortunately, a recent listing of such Level Walker assignments cannot be found, thereby necessitating a bit of detective work before any new assignments can be made. YOUR COOPERATION IN FILLING OUT THE LEVEL WALKER QUESTIONNAIRE attached to this Newsletter will save endless correspondence and expedite Level Walker assignments to those now on the waiting list.

If you have any questions or additional information about the Level Walker activity, please mail these along with your Questionnaire to: Captain Thomas Hahn, 7845 Galt Street, Fort Meade, Md. 20755.

With the idea that Level Walkers of the C&O Canal Association share many common goals with the National Park Service managers of the C&O Canal National Historical Monument, Captain Hahn recently completed an in-depth discussion with Superintendent Dean McClannahan on this subject.

It was Supt. McClannahan's view that the work of our 70 Level Walkers—even on a part-time basis—could provide a very valuable assist to his overworked staff. Enthusiastic about the idea of reviving the Level Walkers group, McClannahan said that they might be especially helpful in such matters as reporting encroachments, maintaining wildlife logs and records for long-term ecological

studies, and gathering historical data from interviews with original C&O Canallers and other old-time local residents.

Supt. McClannahan has already called a meeting of his rangers to discuss the design of a Level Walker reporting form that would be of the greatest help in compiling various types of C&O Canal data. A similar discussion of the Level Walker reporting form was held with Ranger Steven Smith of Great Falls Tavern. Out of all this, we may anticipate a very useful and interesting future for our "reconstituted" Level Walkers.

### JOIN THE C&O CANAL ASSOCIATION

- Your voice is important. Your letters, telephone calls, and conversations can all help tremendously to preserve the natural & historical values of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin.
- Just as important, you, your family and friends can look forward to lots of fun and adventure with fellow C&O Canallers.