

STATEMENT OF JOHN A. CARVER, JR., BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS AT THE HEARING ON HIS NOMINATION BY THE PRESIDENT TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, JANUARY 12, 1965.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee:

The confirmation process is a vital link in the chain of Constitutional checks and balances. A nominee subject to it, at least this nominee, comes to the hearing grateful for the confidence reflected in the nomination, and sensible of the responsibilities involved, including the immediate responsibility to the Senate as the confirming authority.

Hearings such as this elicit facts as to basic qualifications to perform the duties of the designated office, and expose the nominee to inquiry as to his personal views on the key policy issues involved in the exercise of those duties.

This Committee and the Department of the Interior are concerned with the same subject matter, and a close degree of cooperation is necessary. How well the President's appointees work with the Congress and the Committee is important to both the Administration and the Congress.

There is little my words can add to the knowledge the Committee already has on all these matters, based on my four years' service

as Assistant Secretary and frequent appearances before the Committee and contact with its members. The record speaks louder than anything I might say here.

I think I appear here today somewhat better qualified for the present nomination than was the case four years ago, when the Committee considered me for the post of Assistant Secretary. I have had, in the interim, a four-year intensive education--under the tutelage of understanding superiors, willing and able subordinates, cooperative colleagues, and not least important, wise and patriotic members of Congress in both Chambers and both sides of the aisle. It would be impossible to traverse that curriculum without absorbing a fairly intimate appreciation of the complex relationship that exists among the several resource areas comprehended by the Interior Department's mission.

It is my intention, and I am enthusiastic about it, to approach the unfamiliar and new substantive areas with the same diligence and effort I have tried to exert on land, park, territorial and Indian programs in the recent past.

I'm glad that many of the things in the land management area that I outlined as objectives in appearing here four years ago have

been accomplished. Credit for that progress must go to Secretary Udall's understanding counsel and steadfast support. The prospect of an even closer association with the Secretary is a major source of confidence and pleasure in contemplating a broader assignment.

Four years ago, I indicated I owned no stocks, and had no business or other connections which conflicted with my duty of untrammelled loyalty to my employer, the United States of America. That is still true, and I again affirm it.

Mr. Chairman, I shall be glad to respond to any questions the Committee might have.