

REMARKS, POTOMAC RIVER BASIN MEETING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 28, 1965

I am delighted to be a part of this session to discuss proposed development of the Potomac River Basin. This gathering represents the first time to my recollection that the governors of the states of the Basin, and a member of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, together with the congressional representatives of the Potomac River Basin states, have assembled to discuss these problems.

Similarly, to the best of my knowledge, the April 19th meeting of the governors and Commissioner Tobriner was also the first time that the chief executives of the respective jurisdictions assembled together to discuss the Potomac. That meeting resulted in the creation of the Potomac River Basin Advisory Committee on which each of the states and the District of Columbia has three representatives working together to coordinate their respective views on the Basin development.

As I am sure all in this room know, the federal government and the states too, have for many years looked at the growing problems of the Potomac River Basin with increasing concern and expressed hopes. Now, after many studies and much speculation, we are at a point where constructive and implementing action is called for, and I sense Secretary Udall's awareness of and interest in this point of view from his letter of May 7th, inviting the governors of the basin and the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia to this meeting. In that letter the Secretary said—"it is our desire to produce the broadest possible basin-wide concensus on the use of the resources of the Potomac. This, of course, will require the fullest kind of cooperation by the federal agencies, the District of Columbia and the four states of the Basin." In response to Secretary Udall's letter, I replied that "Maryland has much at stake in the Potomac River Basin and is vitally interested in actions proposed for solution to the Potomac problem." I further indicated that "Maryland will supply to the fullest extent possible the cooperation necessary." I am certain that this is the dedicated intention of all of us here today.

Of course, it is a matter of common knowledge that the Potomac River Basin problems are not simple, nor can they be isolated distinctively one from the others. The diversity of problems in Maryland alone includes three major divisions: those of the estuary; of the Metropolitan Washington area; and of the up-stream reaches of the