

KAWISHIWI DISTRICT

Kawishiwi



FEB 10 1964

Miss Josephine C. Foster
5457 W. Thomas Street
Chicago, Illinois, 60651

Dear Miss Foster:

Your recent letter to Attorney General Robert Kennedy concerning the property of Miss Dorothy Holter in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota has been referred to the Forest Service for reply. In your letter you state that you protest Forest Service action to condemn Miss Holter's property while permitting the operation and expansion of large businesses on Basswood Lake and at Curtain and Pipestone Falls.

Your concern about Miss Holter is understandable. We have received a number of other similar inquiries most of which have arisen because of an article in the Chicago Daily News. Unfortunately this article contained a number of inaccurate and misleading statements which have created considerable misunderstanding about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area program. We, therefore, appreciate this opportunity to clarify the purpose and operation of this program particularly as it affects Miss Dorothy Holter and her property.

The private lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area are being acquired as directed by act of Congress (Public Law 84-733). Since this law was passed in 1948, the program has progressed steadily and is now almost completed. We are making every attempt to negotiate purchases at prices acceptable to both the landowner and the Government. Over four hundred properties have been acquired in this manner.

In a few instances, it has not been possible to reach agreement on price or, occasionally, the owner refuses to negotiate. In such cases we regretfully must file condemnation action so a fair value can be determined by the court. Several such actions have been filed. The court has acted on one of these: the Curtain Falls fishing camp property on Crooked Lake. Additional cases are scheduled for the spring term of court.

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