

The newspaper article indicated certain resort property was being exempted from purchase. Actually, there are no exceptions. The impression of exemption probably develops from those purchase cases involving agreement as to terminal use. We have recognized there are instances where forced sale will result in undue personal hardship. Consequently, we have accepted a reservation by owners for a specified time in individual cases. Such extensions of use are balanced by a reduction in the price of the property. All extensions for commercial use terminate before 1966. Those involving personal use have less effect on wilderness characteristics. Consequently, they have been written for a period up to, but not beyond, 1975.

A single exception to such use termination involves a longer reservation. In this one instance, we have recognized the benefits of continuing a scientific wilderness study in the area. Such activity is almost mandatory if we are to understand the interrelationship of man and his environment and manage the area effectively.

We assure you Miss Molter is not being discriminated against. We have been glad to extend her the same opportunities as offered others. The high regard for Miss Molter and the wide interest in her situation are understandable. She is a well known and well liked resident of the canoe country. Her property, however, is in the heart of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and to make an exception in her case would be inconsistent. We feel such action would be unfair to other landowners since several have also been reluctant to give up their lands.

Miss Molter's property is one of the very few private properties in the area on which settlement has not been reached. Negotiations are still in progress.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD P. CLIFF, Chief

By

V. L. Harper