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BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

THE NOMINATION OF BURTON W. SILCOCK TO BE FEDERAL
COCHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND USE
PLANNING COMMISSION FOR ALASKA

JULY 10, 1973

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NOMINATION OF BURTON W. SILCOCK TO BE FEDERAL COCHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR ALASKA

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 1973

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice at 9:30 a.m., in room 3110, Dirksen Office Building, Hon. Lee Metcalf, presiding.

Present: Senators Jackson [chairman], Metcalf [presiding], Hansen, Fannin, Buckley, McClure, and Bartlett.

Also present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director; William J. Van Ness, chief counsel; and Harrison Loesch, minority counsel.

Senator METCALF. The committee will come to order.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. LEE METCALF, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

This is an open hearing to take testimony on the nomination by the president of Burton W. Silcock to be a member and Federal Cochairman of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska, which was created by the enactment of Public Law 92-203, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Mr. Silcock is presently serving as Director of the Bureau of Land Management in the Department of the Interior, having been appointed to that position in 1971. Mr. Silcock previously served as State director for the BLM in Alaska.

Before calling on the distinguished Senators from Alaska and the Honorable John Kyl, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Public Affairs of the Department of the Interior, I shall direct that a biographical sketch of the nominee be inserted in the hearing record at this point in my remarks.

[The biographical sketch of Burton W. Silcock follows:]

BIOGRAPHY OF BURTON W. SILCOCK

Burton W. Silcock was appointed Director of the Bureau of Land Management on June 23, 1971.

He was born on July 29, 1922 in Burley, Idaho.

He joined the Bureau of Land Management in 1948 as a member of BLM's field parties assigned to Missouri River Basin studies, working mainly in the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming. Over the years, those studies developed into a comprehensive inventory of the Missouri River Basin's natural resources and economic outlook.

He has held three successive BLM posts in Wyoming, two years as Assistant District Manager in Lander; two years as District Manager in Pinedale; and six years as District Manager in Worland.

During his assignment at Worland he worked out and negotiated grazing use adjustments to maintain livestock in numbers consonant with the amount of available forage.

In 1959, he was named Chief of the Division of Range and Forestry in the BLM Idaho Office at Boise and in 1962, he became Assistant Director of the BLM Wyoming State Office, with responsibility for the Land Office and for the lands and minerals resource programs.

In 1965, he was named State Director of Alaska and was responsible for guiding the management of public lands in the Nation's largest state. Under his leadership, the BLM Alaska State Office has sought the knowledge and views of all elements concerned with the future of land in Alaska.

In 1970, Silcock received the Presidential Management Improvement Award, in which President Nixon stated that "the noteworthy efforts and intense dedication required for this achievement exemplified the high performance needed to keep our country strong." Particular accomplishments for which he was cited were his progressive environmental management in preparation of the Alaska fire-fighting plan and his role in the development of stipulations for the proposed trans-Alaska oil pipeline right-of-way.

In 1969, he was cited by the Secretary of the Interior "for excellence of service in the preservation of Alaska's natural resources and fragile environment." He also received the American Motors Conservation Award of the Year for 1970.

In Alaska, Silcock also spearheaded initiation of BLM's HELITACK system for control of forest fires on public domain lands. Keys to this effort are a recently developed communication system, training each year of crews of native Alaska villagers who remain on standby for employment during the fire season, and the selection and placement of equipment, operators and suppliers in the State's forested areas.

He served as representative of the Secretary of the Interior in a joint Canadian-United States study of the Yukon River. From 1967 to 1970 he served as Chairman of the Interagency Board of U.S. Civil Service Examiners for Alaska.

Silcock grew up on his father's southern Idaho farm at Burley, where he developed a strong interest in conservation and the use of land and water. He was a three-year varsity letterman in football and track at his local high school and later earned letters in these sports at Utah State University in Logan. Following military service in World War II he returned to Utah State, where he majored in range management and received a B.A. degree in 1947. During his college years, he worked as a seasonal employee of the U.S. Forest Service. His first full-time Federal position was in Texas in 1947 as a Range Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. A year later, he joined BLM.

He is married to the former Ruth Nordstrom, who also is a native of Burley, Idaho. They have two married daughters, Gloria (Mrs. Merlin Brinkerhoff of Calgary, Alberta, Canada) and Marilee (Mrs. Terry Hall of Salt Lake City). They also have a daughter, Penny, who graduated from high school in 1971; a son, Bill, who recently graduated from high school; and four granddaughters.

Silcock's professional associations include membership in the American Society of Range Management, the Society of American Foresters, and the American Forestry Association. He is an Elk.

Senator METCALF. The first witness is our distinguished colleague, the Honorable Ted Stevens, a former member of this committee.

STATEMENT OF HON. TED STEVENS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA

Senator STEVENS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief.

It is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Burton W. Silcock of Virginia to the committee this morning and to recommend him for appointment to be the Federal Cochairman of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission.

Mr. Silcock is presently Director of the Bureau of Land Management, a position he has held since June 1971.

Before that, he was State Director of the Bureau of Land Management for Alaska. He was a recipient of the Presidential Management Improvement Award in 1970 and in 1969 was cited by the Secretary of the Interior for outstanding service.

Mr. Silcock is an expert on the control of forest fires and the conservation of our natural resources. We will bring with him a wealth of knowledge about Alaska and the Department of the Interior's role in our State as well as a deep personal knowledge of the direction that this country should take in planning the future use and development of the 49th State.

He is well-known around Alaska and highly respected throughout the State. He has, for example, participated in the training of Alaska Natives in the area of forest fire fighting.

Mr. Silcock has been with the Bureau of Land Management since 1948. He earned his degree from Utah State University in range management in 1947.

Mr. Chairman, the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission is presently in the midst of making extensive recommendations concerning D-1 and D-2 lands in Alaska. It is attempting to come to grips with a thorny problem, one that has captivated the entire Nation and has centered the attentions of people throughout the lower 48 on Alaska. This problem is the desire of many people to insure that Alaska at least is developed in an orderly manner with protection for its wild areas and in accord with good conservation practices. The vast majority of Alaskans and other people throughout the country are, I believe, correct in saying that our State must be developed judiciously and wisely to insure that the United States is assured the use of the natural resources locked in Alaskan soil and streams and also to insure that our natural beauty is not lost in the process.

At the focus of this national search is the 10-member Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission. Established under section 17 of the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act—Public Law 92-203—the Commission is charged with the major responsibility for recommending the direction that land use planning in the 49th State should take.

Specifically, the Commission is to undertake a process of land use planning including specific recommendations as to each of the various areas in Federal ownership and available for classification. It is also to make recommendations for proposed land selections by the State under the Alaska Statehood Act and also by the village and regional corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. It is to advise in the proposed use and development once the lands have been selected. It is to advise concerning future withdrawals. The Commission is in the process of holding public hearings and has just recently completed a major set of hearings across the country, seeking to establish the views, not only of Alaskans, but of people in every part of the Nation who are concerned, and rightfully so, with the development of our State and the public lands therein.

The Commission has established a council of advisers, experts from throughout the State in various walks of life.

It is also to make housekeeping recommendations and administrative recommendations to the President and the Governor of Alaska and to Congress in these various areas.

In particular, it is to make recommendations to insure "that economic growth and development is orderly, planned and compatible with the State and national environmental objectives, the public interest in the public lands, parks, forests and wildlife refuges in Alaska and the economic and social well-being of the Native people and other residents of Alaska."

Mr. Chairman, I have known Burt Silcock for a long time. He has performed in each job to which he has been assigned in the Bureau of Land Management with distinction. In his 6 years in Alaska, he performed admirably. His performance as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management is well known to this committee and I believe you agree with me that he has served well in this position.

He will do so again as Chairman of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission.

We will welcome him and his family back to Alaska. I see his wife, Ruth, is in the audience and at this time I would like to wish them the best of luck in their new endeavor.

I have two items that I would request be inserted in the official hearing record at this point.

The first is a press release by the Secretary of the Interior, and the second is an article from the newsletter of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska on this nomination. It sets forth the views of several other members of the Commission.

[The press release and article follow:]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
June 20, 1973.

MORTON HAILS NOMINATION OF BURTON W. SILCOCK AS FEDERAL COCHAIRMAN,
JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR ALASKA

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton today hailed as an excellent choice President Nixon's announcement that he is nominating Burton W. Silcock as Federal Cochairman of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska.

Silcock, Director of the Bureau of Land Management since June 1971, will replace the first Federal Co-Chairman, Jack O. Horton, who left that post to become Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Water Resources. The Governor of Alaska, William A. Egan, is State Cochairman.

"I have the greatest confidence in Burt Silcock's abilities as an administrator and as a land use planner," Secretary Morton said. "He is a professional of the highest caliber. His technical competence and strong leadership, and his 25 years of experience—6 of which were in Alaska—in guiding the development and use of the natural resources of this country will be invaluable to the Commission."

The 10-member Commission was established under the authority of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act which President Nixon signed into law in December 1971. It is responsible for making recommendations to both the State and Federal Governments concerning the proper use and protection of lands in America's largest State. Most of Alaska is Federally-owned, but the new law establishes procedures for land selections by Alaska Natives and the State Government, and for land withdrawals by the Secretary of the Interior.

As BLM Director, Silcock has been responsible for the management of 450 million acres of Public Domain. The Bureau is also responsible for the Federal Government's mineral interests in the Outer Continental Shelf and in lands reaching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean.

Prior to his appointment as BLM Director, Silcock had served nearly six years as BLM State Director in Alaska. He was cited by the Secretary of the Interior in 1969 "for excellence of service in the preservation of Alaska's natural resources and fragile environment."

In 1970 he received the American Motors Conservation Award and the Presidential Management Improvement Award. In the citation, President Nixon stated that "the noteworthy efforts and intense dedication required for this achievement exemplify the high performance needed to keep our country strong." Particular accomplishments cited were Silcock's progressive environmental programs, his leadership in the preparation of the Alaska firefighting plan, and his role in the development of environmental and other stipulations for the proposed Trans-Alaska pipeline right-of-way.

While serving as State Director he also represented the Secretary of the Interior in a joint Canadian-United States study of the Yukon River and served as Chairman of the Interagency Board of the U.S. Civil Service Examiners for Alaska.

Silcock joined the Bureau of Land Management in 1948, and his assignments in subsequent years to positions of increasing responsibility have given him a diversified background and outstanding qualifications in land and resource management.

Both Silcock and his wife, the former Ruth Nordstrom, are natives of Burley, Idaho. They have three married daughters, Gloria (Mrs. Merlin Brinkerhoff of Calgary, Alberta, Canada), Marilee (Mrs. Terry Hall of Salt Lake City, Utah), and Penny (Mrs. Wayne Magnuson of Denver, Colorado). They also have a son, Bill, a high school senior, and three granddaughters.

Silcock's professional associations include membership in the American Society of Range Management, the Society of American Foresters, and the American Forestry Association. He is a Elk and a Rotarian.

FOR LAND'S SAKE

NEWSLETTER OF THE FEDERAL-STATE LAND USE
PLANNING COMMISSION FOR ALASKA

SILCOCK NAMED

June 19, 1973, Burton W. Silcock, director of the Bureau of Land Management was named by President Nixon as Federal Cochairman of the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission. This position has been vacant since February when Jack Horton resigned to take a position of Assistant Secretary of Land and Water Resources at the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Silcock headed the Alaska State Office of the Bureau of Land Management for seven years prior to his BLM Washington promotion in 1971.

Joe Josephson, State Cochairman Designee, said "I am delighted Burt can now take the place for which he is so well equipped, as Federal Co-Chairman. His long experience with Alaska's problems and his understanding of the issues assures that the Commission can continue to serve the needs of the nation and the State in a spirit of partnership." Executive Director, Ted Bingham commented, "Burt has a wealth of experience in actual land management practices which will be of immense benefit to the Commission."

The nomination is subject to Senate confirmation.

Senator STEVENS. Again, Mr. Chairman, it has been a great pleasure for me to come and speak briefly on behalf of a very fine public servant and a good friend, Mr. Burton W. Silcock.

Senator METCALF. Certainly your very persuasive and friendly testimony will be considered by your old colleagues on this committee. It's nice to have you here.

We are also pleased to have another member of the committee and our other friend from Alaska. Senator Gravel, who, I know, is going to be just as persuasive as his Alaska colleague.

STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE GRAVEL, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE
STATE OF ALASKA

Senator GRAVEL. Mr. Chairman, one of the things I am extremely happy about is the admirable caliber of people selected by the administration to serve on the Federal Land Use Planning Commission in the State of Alaska.

The Commission has worked admirably thus far on some very serious and very knotty problems.

The appointment of Mr. Silcock as Federal Cochairman, we in Alaska look upon him as a citizen of Alaska. He is a person who served our State very, very well in a very responsible position that is quite germane to the position he will now occupy.

I want to associate myself with the remarks of my colleague, Senator Stevens, and the details of those remarks, and add my voice to say I think we are very fortunate to regain the physical presence of Mr. Silcock in Alaska where he is needed and have him there exercising his God-given talents in an area in which he is most expert.

The success of the Commission is primarily that of the individuals on the Commission. It has no police power, it is an advisory Commission. But in seeing the Commission now in operation I find that the Commission is working more effectively without these police powers because it is working on sheer skill and the justice of the decisions that they are making.

I think the leadership of Mr. Silcock will add to these deliberations and certainly add an improvement to the quality of decisionmaking that takes place, not only at the State level but at the Federal level, which will be to the best interest not only of all Alaskans, but the best interest to this country.

I exhort this committee to give him the cleanest bill of health that I am sure you will be able to give him to do that job. Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Thank you, Senator Gravel, for a most persuasive statement.

Do any of the members of the committee have questions of the two Senators, either of them?

Senator HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I don't have any questions. I might say I am not at all surprised that the nominee is as highly regarded as he is. He was trained in Wyoming and did a very good job out there as State Director for the BLM. I watched his progress with great approval and admiration and certainly give my second to the very fine tributes given Mr. Silcock by Senators Stevens and Gravel.

Senator METCALF. Thank you. I suppose if Senator Church were here he would make a note of the fact that he grew up in Idaho.

Senator McClure, I will leave that to you.

Senator McCLURE. Thank you.

Senator JACKSON. In order to get from Idaho to Alaska, though, you have to go through the State of Washington.

Senator METCALF. I thank the two Senators from Alaska and I know that you have other business. So you can be excused if you desire.

The next witness we are privileged to have with us is the Honorable John Kyl, an old friend of this committee, and a former colleague from the other side of the Capitol. Secretary Kyl, we are pleased to have you here. Do you have a prepared statement? Go ahead.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN KYL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR

Mr. KYL. Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Interior Committee, it is my pleasure to appear before this distinguished committee in support of President Nixon's nomination of Burton W. Silcock as Federal Cochairman of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska.

As Director of the Department's Bureau of Land Management, Mr. Silcock brings over 25 years—6 of them in Alaska—of leadership and distinguished service in land and resource management to this challenging post.

Since childhood on his father's farm in southern Idaho, at Burley, Mr. Silcock has had a profound interest in the need to conserve and utilize our natural resources without despoiling the integrity of the environment. On completing his military service in World War II, he pursued that interest, receiving a baccalaureate degree in range management from Utah State College in 1947. The following year he joined the Bureau of Land Management as a member of the task force conducting field studies of the Missouri River Basin.

During his career with BLM, Mr. Silcock has held a succession of key resource management positions including: Chief of the Division of Range and Forestry in the BLM Idaho Office; Assistant Director of the BLM Wyoming State Office; State BLM Director for Alaska; U.S. Representative on the Joint Canadian-United States Study of the Yukon River; and Director of the Bureau of Land Management. As BLM Director, Mr. Silcock has been responsible for management and preservation of over 450 million acres of public domain lands as well as the administration of mineral leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf.

For his leadership in resource management and conservation, Mr. Silcock received the American Motors Conservation Award and the Presidential Management Improvement Award in 1970. His membership in professional societies includes: The American Society of Range Management, the Society of American Foresters, and the American Forestry Association.

Statements submitted by Senators Stevens and Gravel, together with the biographical data submitted for the record provide thorough detail of the unquestioned achievement evidenced by Mr. Silcock's career in land management.

I believe that Mr. Silcock is uniquely qualified to carry out the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act which was passed by Congress, and signed into law by President Nixon in 1971. Our largest State, Alaska, is the last of our States where the vast majority of land and resource decisions have not been made. We are in a unique position today to match Alaska's need for economic and social development with our national need to preserve the integrity of our environment. I personally believe that Mr. Silcock can bring new insight and greater effectiveness to our efforts to preserve and develop our finite resources.

For this reason I respectfully urge you, Mr. Chairman, and the distinguished members of this committee to act favorably and expedi-

tiously on the President's nomination of Mr. Burt Silcock as Federal Cochairman of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes my statement.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much, Secretary Kyl, for your statement in behalf of Mr. Silcock.

Are there any questions of Secretary Kyl?

Thank you for your appearance here this morning.

Now we will hear from Mr. Silcock himself, a nominee for this important office in Alaska, created as a result of some of the activity of many of the members of this committee in the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Act. We are delighted to have you here this morning and pleased to hear your testimony, Mr. Silcock.

STATEMENT OF HON. BURTON W. SILCOCK, NOMINEE TO BE FEDERAL COCHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR ALASKA

Mr. SILCOCK. Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, it is an honor for me to be here today to talk with you about my nomination by the President to be the Federal Cochairman of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska.

I was born and raised on a farm near Burley, Idaho. Those early years of my life were spent close to the soil and taught me the basics of agriculture and livestock operations. I might add this experience created a real interest in the field of conservation of our natural resources. Throughout my career with the Bureau of Land Management I have found this to be helpful in understanding the needs and problems of those individuals who use the land.

I was educated at Utah State University, and there I began to understand the importance of balanced land use management. I realized that for the welfare of the country, that our lands must be used wisely in order to conserve their ability to produce and to protect their soils and forest cover.

After leaving college, I worked on a Bureau of Land Management team assigned to study and inventory the natural resources and economic outlook for the Missouri River Basin. This was one of the Federal Government's first attempts to plan proper land use for a large area of land in various ownerships.

Later I served in a number of administrative posts in Wyoming and Idaho in which I was responsible for applying policy decisions to the management of public lands. It was in these early years with the Bureau, when I worked directly with the land and with the people who lived on the land, that I learned the importance of involving the public in the Federal process of land management.

It became apparent to me that people must be allowed to voice their views whenever significant decisions are being made on land management programs. Unless people understand and support a Bureau program, management goals will be more difficult, if not impossible, to reach.

In 1965 I became BLM's State Director in Alaska, and my service there was a sobering experience. The immensity of the land under Bureau administration was awesome, and I realized that it would be a gigantic task to balance the land and resource uses of this vast area.

And even less was known then than now of how much the various kinds of uses and development would impact the fragile Arctic soils.

During this time the historic Classification and Multiple Use Act was passed, and we began an extensive program of land-use planning in which we involved the public. In accordance with the act, we were to determine which areas of the public lands should remain in Federal ownership and which were more suitable for disposal. In Alaska, for example, the Wrangell Mountains and the Illiamna area were classified for retention and are now identified as national interest lands under the Alaska Native Claims Act.

My 2 years as Director of the Bureau have further reinforced my belief that land-use planning must be done by professionals of the highest caliber and that the public must be involved in the process.

Now, after working for many years with the land and its resources, and with the people who use the land, I look upon the opportunity to serve as the Federal Cochairman in Alaska as the most challenging responsibility of my career. The direction that the Congress has given to the Commission will vitally affect the future of Alaska and Alaskans, as well as the future of all citizens of this country.

Thank you, and now I will be glad to answer any questions that you might have.

Senator METCALF. I am going to call a brief recess at this time, at the request of the two Senators from Alaska.

[Brief recess taken.]

Senator METCALF. The committee will be back in order.

Senator JACKSON.

Senator JACKSON. Mr. Chairman, I want to compliment the Secretary for being responsible for nominating Mr. Silcock. What I like about him is that they have picked out a top-flight professional within the service for this position and I think it is the kind of reward, kind of expertise that helps the professional service. I simply want to congratulate you, sir, and wish you well. I know you are eminently qualified by reason of your long experience to do a fair, just and impartial job.

Mr. SILCOCK. Thank you, sir.

Senator METCALF. Senator Fannin.

Senator FANNIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silcock, the Senators who have appeared to speak justify their great faith in you. I have no personal knowledge of your outstanding record. This is a very important position and probably will have a great deal to do with the planning to be undertaken by many of the States. This is a unique situation.

I am wondering what your thoughts are concerning the retention of States rights to make decisions on land use planning?

Mr. SILCOCK. I think in the case at hand it is a matter of, I think, working together on the thing. For example, in Alaska, there is a large amount of Federal land, up to 80 million acres could be reserved as national interest land. I think we have to work together from the point of Federal and State Government to work these things out, so we can obtain a balanced use of those resources and the land.

Senator FANNIN. I agree that we should retain the balance. I know the situation in Alaska is unique, with the tremendous amount of land under Federal ownership. Also, I am thinking of the patterns that will be made, the basis on which some of the other States will be in a

position to handle their problems. I am hoping full consideration will be given to the rights of the States in a program. I realize this is all set out in the plan that we will be following but at the same time I am concerned that we do not set up a Federal dictatorial policy in that regard. Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Senator Hansen.

Senator HANSEN. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman.

Senator METCALF. Senator Hatfield.

Senator HATFIELD. I have no questions.

Senator METCALF. Senator McClure.

Senator McCLURE. I haven't a question, however, I want to extend my remarks and greeting to a man who has been a friend of ours for a long, long time. As well as being born in Idaho, he has worked in Idaho as well as Wyoming. Of course, I can't imagine a more significant or more difficult task than the one you now undertake, trying to make the decisions that are required in Alaska on the conflicting Federal-Native States and Federal claims, as well as the private interests. I am certain that each of us here on this committee is very, very happy that we have someone with both the experience in Alaska and the background in land management that you have had.

I am certain there will be problems and I am certain the appointment of any single individual is not going to solve all of them. But I do believe the selection the President made in this instance will give us as good a handling on solving those problems as any he could have made. We welcome you.

Mr. SILCOCK. Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Are there any others?

Mr. Silcock, one of the important matters before the Congress, of course, would be to be kept advised of the progress of this new agency and it has been our procedure to ask a question as to your willingness to—your complete willingness to respond to a request to appear and testify before this committee or any duly constituted committee of the Senate and to give us information and tell us of the progress of your activity. Are you willing to do that if you are confirmed?

Mr. SILCOCK. Yes, sir.

Senator METCALF. I wonder if you would put in the record, Mr. Kyl, Mr. Secretary, the procedure that is a part of the Interior Department as to appearances and testimony by members of the staff before various congressional committees?

As I understand it you have a part of a regular procedure that declares that they shall appear and testify?

Mr. KYL. Yes, sir.

Senator METCALF. Would you provide that for the record?

Mr. KYL. Yes, sir.

[The information follows:]

§ 20.735-16 Information.

It is the policy of the Department to accord the public access to information about its activities and to make available to the public records of the Department except in the cases where the disclosure of the record is prohibited by statute or Executive order or the record is exempt from the disclosure requirements of the Public Information Act (Public Law 90-23) and sound grounds exist which require application of an applicable exemption. An employee may not testify in any judicial or administrative proceedings concerning matters related to the business of the Government without the permission of the head of the bureau, his designee, or the Secretary of the Interior, or his designee. (See Part 2 of this subtitle, as revised July 3, 1967.)

Senator METCALF. Senator JACKSON.

Senator JACKSON. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Silcock has exhibited a financial statement which I think all members have had a chance to see.

Senator METCALF. I would like to ask a couple more questions before we talk about the financial statement.

Senator JACKSON. Go ahead. I am sorry.

Senator METCALF. Mr. Silcock, you have been in Alaska and worked as a Director of the BLM before you worked for the BLM down here. You worked very closely with officers and members of the State. Do you think you can be completely objective in your relationship between the State and the members of the Indian tribes and protect the interest of the Federal Government while carrying out these duties that have been duly assigned to you?

Mr. SILCOCK. I think I can, sir.

Senator METCALF. I am sure you can, too. I think your background as a career land manager demonstrates that you have an objective point of view.

Mr. Chairman, I have some questions about his successor, but I don't think they are pertinent to this hearing.

Mr. KYL, we have had in Mr. Silcock a professional land manager as head of the Bureau of Land Management. Prior to him, of course, we have had other professionals in that office. If Mr. Silcock is confirmed in this job are we going to continue to have a professional in the Bureau of Land Management as the Director of that Bureau?

Mr. KYL. Am I correct, sir, in reading the statute, that has to be the case. The Director of the BLM must be a career employee.

Senator METCALF. That is what we understand. There are rumors that Mr. Berklund is to be appointed—

Senator JACKSON. He does not have to be a true professional in the sense of some period of service. All he has to meet is the civil service qualifications, isn't that true? That is what the staff advises me. Reorganization Manual 3, approved in 1946, is that correct?

Mr. KYL. I believe it is.

Senator JACKSON. It could be someone who simply achieved civil service status and only has been in a number of months.

Mr. SILCOCK. I think that is correct.

Mr. KYL. It is my understanding and my knowledge that this individual was, as a matter of fact, what we commonly term "career employee" of the Department before he was taken off that status for a brief period of time. I can certainly provide that for the record if you desire it.

Mr. METCALF. Aside from the fact you require a civil service status, which is a part of the statute, don't you believe that the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, who administers the most arid and fragile lands in America, and some of the most important lands in America, should have special qualifications in the field of land management?

Mr. KYL. Yes, sir. I do. Without knowing all of the detail, and with the knowledge of the individual who has been mentioned, I would say he does have this qualification.

Senator METCALF. I am not going to belabor this as far as this nominee is concerned. We will wait until we see who is nominated to take his place.

Senator JACKSON. Mr. Chairman, I looked at the financial statement of Mr. Silcock and I don't see any question at all about his assets, liabilities, very modest, I would say.

Senator METCALF. I think all of the members of the committee had an opportunity to examine the financial statement presented to the committee by Mr. Silcock. Is there any comment about it? We will accept it as one that demonstrates there could be no conflict of interest or any material conflict in carrying out the duties of this very important job for which you are nominated.

Senator JACKSON. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to move the nomination be reported favorably.

Senator METCALF. Senator McClure.

Senator McCLURE. I second the motion.

Senator METCALF. Is there any objection to the motion? Without objection, the motion of Senator Jackson, seconded by Senator McClure, will be agreed to.

Senator JACKSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand that Mr. Silcock would like to be sworn in by the Secretary today, and I shall ask Senator Mansfield to waive the usual rule and see if we can't obtain Senate confirmation this afternoon.

Senator METCALF. In view of the unanimous action of the committee, and the past record of the nominee, I can't see why there shouldn't be a waiver of the usual rule, so we can get the continued services of Mr. Silcock.

Thank you for your appearance here, and I congratulate you on your opportunity, and the challenge that you have before you.

[Whereupon, at 10:30 a.m., the hearing was concluded.]

