

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1917.

Dear Mr. Hayden:

I am in receipt of your letter of February 26th, inclosing communication from Mr. Bernie Zachau, suggesting certain provisions that he deems it advisable to include in the pending Grand Canyon National Park bill. In the first place, Mr. Zachau urges that provision be made for development of water power in the Canyon. In the drafting of the bill, the question of granting water power permits in the proposed park was carefully considered, and the following provision was drawn to make such development possible:

"That whenever consistent with the primary purposes of said park the Act of February fifteenth, nineteen hundred and one, applicable to the locations of rights of way in certain national parks and the national forests for irrigation and other purposes, and subsequent Acts shall be and remain applicable to the lands included within the park."

In view of the fact that this is the act under which rights of way for power development are granted on unreserved public lands, and that the bill makes any subsequent acts also applicable to the proposed park, it is not clear what further provision for power development could be made.

The second suggestion made by Mr. Zachau refers to the matter of affording competition in furnishing hotel accommodations and transportation facilities in the proposed park. A provision of this character is unnecessary, as the Secretary of the Interior has full authority under the Act of August 25, 1916, to grant concessions for the accommodation of tourists, and there is nothing therein that limits him to the grant of monopolistic privileges. If, after the park is created, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior, it would be wise to permit the establishment of hotels and camps in competition with the existing enterprises operated by the Santa Fe system, he can pursue this course and grant as many additional privileges as he deems advisable.

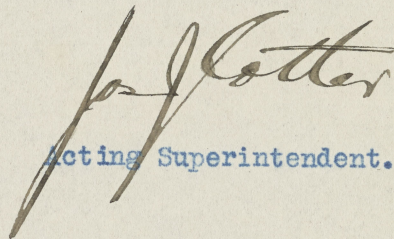
Mr. Zachau also suggests that provision should be made for the granting of summer home privileges in the new park. The National Park Service is authorized to permit the establishment of summer homes in

one or two of the parks, but has refrained in recent years from granting permits of this character on account of the many difficulties of administration that were encountered immediately upon erection of these structures. It was found that the summer home permittee sought the most beautiful and attractive site available, resented the appearance of tourists and park officers in the vicinity of his home, and was adverse to park development, where the environment of his interests was impaired in the slightest degree.

A National Park should be free to all the people, and the only tracts that should be reserved from public use are those that are leased to hotel and camp concessioners for establishment and operation of accommodations for the tourist. In the case of the Grand Canyon, there is no opportunity for the establishment of summer homes, in the first place because there is a great scarcity of water, and in the second place because the boundaries of the park are drawn so close to the rim of the gorge that summer home sites could not be leased without withdrawing from public use land that should remain open.

Mr. Zachau's letter is returned as requested.

Cordially yours,



Acting Superintendent.

Hon. Carl Hayden,  
House of Representatives.

Inc. 15510.