

October 14, 1963

Mr. Orville T. Freeman
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Freeman:

Please register our views on one aspect of extending
Wilderness Areas in the Sierras of California:

We hold the opinion that it is good to preserve a wilderness area which already exists, but that it is foolish to create a wilderness by the destruction of personal property.

We are a philosophical group having a meeting place, a retreat building for summer discussions. This lodge is 2000 square feet in area, of natural stone and concrete, with heavy beamed roof and fireplace. It is located some 3000 yards up the canyon bordering our 430-acre property in the Tuttle Creek section of Inyo County, near Lone Pine.

It took us twenty years, working in the summers with volunteer labor, to build this structure.

We have been told by local Rangers that if the Wilderness Area is extended far enough outward from the truly wild regions of the Sierras, we will be asked to destroy this building.

Having put the biggest part of our group's resources into this lodge and the acres near it, we could never bring ourselves to destroy it. We would be bound to resist, regardless of consequences.

May we ask, sir: Is it consistent to the purpose of the Wilderness Act that people such as ourselves, who were long ago granted the right by the Forest Service to build where we built, should now be required to destroy the very heart of their group activity?

Would it not be better to draw the boundaries around such a place, which is by no means in a remote area?

Hoping that our small voice may be heard in this large matter, I am

Respectfully yours,

(Dr.) Franklin Wolff
for the Assembly of Man
Box 559

Lone Pine, California