

HSM
FILE

372 LINCOLN STREET
PHILLIPSBURG, NEW JERSEY 08865

December 11, 1974

Mrs. Lawrence Silver
Clove Avenue
Sussex, N. J. 07461

Dear Mrs. Silver:

Perhaps I am a bit presumptuous to reply to your letter of November 6, 1974, to Mrs. Meyner.

You are troubled about my wife's stand on Tocks Island. I am troubled about your misinformation with respect to my activities as to the Tocks Island situation.

When I first took office in January of 1953, the Worthington tract, consisting of 6,500 acres, was listed for sale. Immediately upon taking office, I was able to talk to the Worthington brothers who were interested in selling the property and persuaded them to withdraw the property from an offer to sell. Later in June after receiving budget approval, I was able to get them to sell the property to the State for \$420,000. You must remember that this represented four and one-half miles along the Delaware in the area of the Water Gap. You must also remember that funds were not quite as available in the 50's and early 60's as they were later.

In 1960 or 1961 when conservationists were not quite as active as they are today, we had an offer from one of the utility companies to purchase a small portion of the acreage on the top of the mountain in return for \$250,000 and a conveyance to some other acreage. At that time it looked as though it was an attractive deal, because the Commissioner of Conservation and Economic Development had an offer to purchase some land in Sussex County with the proceeds of the sale. Of course, you can see that a situation can change with the turn of subsequent events, but in 1961 the sale looked quite attractive.

Over the years I was instrumental in trying to develop an interstate organization which later became the Delaware Water Commission. Joseph Clark, then mayor of Philadelphia and later Senator from Pennsylvania, and I were among the original proponents of the plan to provide for recreation, water supply, flood control, and a lessening of the salinity of the lower Delaware. The idea of utilizing the Dam for some power development was only incidental to the outlined purposes.

I can assure you that my wife during the campaign approached the entire subject of Tocks Island Dam with an open mind. I feel sure that your views and those of the environmentalists will be weighed thoroughly before she makes any decision. I can also assure you that she has a mind of her own. She will speak for herself.

I just wanted to recorrect in your mind at least any misapprehension that you have of my role in trying to preserve the area around the Delaware Water Gap.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Meyner

RBM/dt

November 6, 1974

Dear Mrs. Meyner:

I would like to offer my best wishes for your success as our newly elected representative from the 13th District.

You have a long hard job in front of you, as it can no longer be 'government as usual'. You must know from the polls that many of the voters were voting 'Against' rather than 'For', which is a sad commentary on our political system.

One thing that has always troubled me about your candidacy has been your vague stance on the Tocks Island Dam and entire project. As you must realize this is the second least wanted project in the nation. Additionally many people have had heart attacks by loss of their long time homes and the devastation wrought by the Army Corps of Engineers and their high-handed tactics.

Tocks Island Dam should be de-authorized and your predecessor has initiated such action which I sincerely hope you promote, it would restore my faith in good government.

Although you have publically disavowed Power company connections there still remains a doubt. Your husband when he was Governor of New Jersey, violated a trust in selling part of the Worthington tract and later became counsel to a Power company. I hope you will not emulate any such action.

No one is more cognizant of the need for power than myself, but until other forms of energy are truly investigated and used I cannot see despoiling one of the last beautiful areas in this highly populated state and there are other valid objections which can be enunciated. The U.S. Bureau of Mines has done quite a bit of research on finding new sources of energy, such as - extraction of Methane from wastes, use of wind or geothermal power among others.

As a Democrat, I hope you can help turn this country around from its downhill course. Not only from the obvious problems of inflation and recession but by honest, straightforward conduct try to bring decent morality to the nation. If there is anything I can do to assist you please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lawrence Silver

Mrs. Lawrence Silver
Clove Avenue
Sussex, N.J. 07461