

January 31, 1979

MEMORANDUM

TO: P.E.T., Missy

FROM: Steve Jonas *sg*

SUBJECT: Lowell Park Budget

As you know, the President's Budget has earmarked \$1.5 million in operations funds for the National Park Service (NPS). Nothing is provided for NPS acquisition and development. Also, the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission is budgeted \$200,000 for operations and nothing for acquisition and development.

According to Jay Sahd (Tel. 343-4366) and Dan Salsbury (Tel. 343-4211), Interior has submitted a request to OMB of \$1.550 million for the Commission, \$550,000 for operations, \$500,000 for grants for development and \$500,000 for acquisition and development of sites by the Commission. OMB rejected the request and Interior set aside the \$200,000 for operations which had OMB concurrence.

Stewart Sessions of OMB (tel. 195-4993) claims that the Interior request was rejected due to their concern about proliferation of separate entities and items in the budget. He compared the Lowell Commission to Santa Monica and Pine Barrens, all of which OMB wants funded under existing budget categories. The cooperative activities account (\$370 million) was identified by Sessions as a source of acquisition and development funds for the Lowell Commission. Jay Sahd, from Interior, claims there is no cooperative activities account and David Hales told Missy that the Lowell Commission and the Park Service were not funded for acquisition and development because the Park Plan will not be

completed for two years. Thus, both the Commission and NPS would be unable to spend acquisition and development funds since without a plan it's not known how the money should be spent.

That argument makes some sense for NPS because the FY 79 budget may have enough funds for the acquisition of the 5 NPS sites. However, it's not an appropriate or accurate view of the Commission's responsibilities under the Act.

Attached are pertinent sections of this point that clearly indicate the Commission has the authority to expend funds before the plan is completed. Also, the notion that the Commission is part of NPS and not a separate entity deserving of its own budget as a line item is inconsistent with the intent of the Act, is likely to result in budget fights year after year, and fails to recognize the uniqueness of Historic Commission/NPS relationship.

Fred will submit a detailed budget and justification.

ATTACHMENT
PB 95813
AR 11662