

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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## MORTON CALLS ALLEGED NEW EAGLE KILLINGS A NATIONAL OUTRAGE

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton tonight expressed "complete dismay and personal outrage at the wanton destruction of American eagles in Wyoming" reported today in testimony before the Senate's Environmental Appropriations Subcommittee.

"With today's testimony now a part of the public record," Secretary Morton added "I want to reaffirm the Department's determination to take all possible steps to criminally prosecute those found responsible for the alleged slaughter of these regal birds."

Secretary Morton today directed members of the Department of the Interior to place all investigative data before the Department of Justice and will ask the Attorney General to take such legal action as is warranted by the evidence.

Today's testimony included charges that hundreds of golden eagles were killed by shot gun from aircraft in Wyoming.

"The Department of the Interior," continued Secretary Morton, "has conducted a detailed field investigation of this national outrage with 12 Department agents acquiring final evidence."

Testifying at today's hearing, Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Nathaniel Reed, told those present that these alleged killings are a deliberate defiance of law. Reed further stated his hope that the hearings will enable the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice "to act in consort to bring those responsible for this senseless and unlawful slaughter of large numbers of our dwindling population of eagles before the bar of justice."

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