

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held in the City Fire Hall, Council Chamber, Mount Vernon, Washington at 10:00 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, March 2, 1937, for the purpose of securing the views of interested parties relative to flood control on the Skagit River.

The hearing was called to order by Lt. Col. H. J. Wild, Corps of Engineers, Seattle, Washington.

COL. WILD: The purpose of this hearing is to consider the advisability of the Federal Government engaging in flood control works upon the Skagit River. To enable those present to more intelligently consider the matter, it might be well to outline the background of the Government in regard to such projects.

In 1927 the lower Mississippi was visited by one of the greatest floods in its history. For many years the United States had been engaged in flood work upon the river under the Mississippi River Commission. Following this flood demands were made upon Congress for further action in regard to control of this stream. This demand resulted in a coordinated plan for works on the Mississippi from Cairo to the Gulf of Mexico. In March 1936, floods of great magnitude occurred in the northeastern part of the United States and in the vicinity of Pittsburgh. Damages aggregated hundreds of millions of dollars, and more than 200 lives were lost in this catastrophe. This occurrence again brought the subject of flood control before the public and resulted in Congress passing what is known as the Omnibus Flood Control Act of June 22, 1936. This act established for the first time a policy for Federal participation in flood control works. This policy probably cannot be better explained than by reading section 1 of the act itself. (Reads Section 1, Public No. 738, 74th Congress).

At the time of the passing of this act it was the opinion of Congress that in the consideration of the problem the question of soil erosion, water retardation and other allied matters should be investigated as well as the actual control of the flood waters themselves. For this reason the bill carries duties jointly assigned to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of Agriculture in regard to the investigation. These assignments are given in section 2 as follows: (Reads Section 2.)

Section 3 of the act outlines in a definite manner the extent of financial participation that may be expected from the Federal Government and that which will be required to be assumed by local interests. This section reads in part as follows: (Reads Section 3.)

Those present should note the facts in the paragraph just read, which in brief may be re-stated as follows: The Federal Government will assume the con-

struction costs if the benefits to be derived are greater than the cost of the work; that local interests must provide the necessary rights of way; assume the risk of any damages caused by the work; and operate the works after their construction under such regulations as the Secretary of War may direct. It has been ruled that the alteration of highways, bridges, railroads, and features of like nature which may become necessary shall be considered as part of the local requirement. Your attention is invited to the fact that the local interests mentioned in the act must be some recognized body such as the state, city, county, flood-control district, or other organization which has the legal right to enter into contract with the Federal Government.

The purpose of this hearing is to ascertain the desires of local interests as to a flood control project upon the stream in question; as to the nature of the works required to produce the results desired; and to determine the prospects of the Federal requirements being met if and when the work is authorized.

There is a peculiar condition on the Skagit River. The act of last year carries the federal projects which have been approved and authorizes their construction. The act itself does not contain an appropriation for construction. Such appropriation will have to be made. The project which was authorized by Congress on the Skagit River is what is known as the Avon By-pass, and so that you may be a little familiar with just what is contained in that, I will read briefly from a document which was written in our office. (Reads letter of December 15, 1936, App. A-4.) The location is shown on the map here on the wall. We are willing to admit in this hearing that floods have occurred on the Skagit River, so when you speak it will not be necessary for you to try to establish that fact. They are a matter of record. The matter of individual damage is not desired at this time. If anyone has a record of damage in writing we would be very glad to have it. We would be glad to have any statements as to the heights of water at various places. If you can tell us exactly where the water was at any certain bridge at any certain time I would be glad to have that. While we want to hear from everybody, there is a large number of people here and the time is very limited, so matters of a personal nature are not desired.

This hearing will be conducted in two parts. The part which deals with the control of the flood waters themselves and the questions which I touched on just previously will be conducted by the Engineer Department, after which the meeting will be turned over to Mr. Andrews, of the Department of Agriculture. He will conduct that part of the hearing pertaining to soil conservation and other matters under the jurisdiction of his department.

As a stenographic report must be made of the hearing and forwarded to the Federal authorities in Washington, it is requested that everyone present sign the blank which has been passed around, giving his name, address and vocation, in order that higher authorities may be advised of whom to consult if they so desire. It is further requested that for the benefit of the stenographers taking notes, each person rise to speak and give his name, together with his vocation, and speak clearly and slowly in order that the reporters may make a satisfactory record of the hearing.

There was a notice sent out some time last fall in reference to the Avon project and we had replies in our office from several people, but to get it into the record I think it best to call upon these same people who replied to our letters and ask them to express their opinions not only in regard to this Cut-off, but on any other matter in reference to flood control on the Skagit River. There are three main points in question; what the local authorities desire, the chances of meeting the Federal requirements for participation, and the operation of the project after it is completed. We had one reply from the State Department of Highways. Are they represented this morning? If they are, I would like to hear from them.

MR. ROBIN V. WELTS (County Planning Council): Col. Wild, just as a suggestion, I know of some data that has been accumulated and if I called these people and asked them some questions and then let the meeting take the course of anyone speaking who wished, I believe it would proceed in a more constructive manner.

COL. WILD: I would like to hear from these people first. Is anyone here from the State Department of Health? (no response) The State Planning Council? (no response) The City of Mount Vernon?

MR. THOMAS K. CHAMBERS (Attorney at Law, Mount Vernon): I represent the city. I don't know just exactly what you would expect from the city. We have our dikes pretty well built. We are interested in what is going on, but I am not prepared to say anything in behalf of the city until we get farther along in the meeting.

COL. WILD: Is the Great Northern Railway Company represented?

MR. T. G. HASTINGS (Asst. Engineer, Great Northern Railway Co., Seattle): We have nothing particular to offer on this except that the railroad company will not oppose this project and expects they will not be subject to any expense. I do not think it necessary to go into the damage we have sustained in the past.

COL. WILD: Is the Puget Sound Pulp and Timber Company represented? (no response) Diking District No.1?

MR. COIT G. UTGARD (Commissioner of Diking District No.1): Do you want me to express the feeling of the taxpayers in that district?

COL. WILD: Yes.

MR. UTGARD: As far as I can find out from talking to the different people, they are against the Avon spillway. They don't think the money can be raised by that district to build the spillway and after it is built they don't know where it will end up, because after it is finished it is turned back to the county or diking district to keep up. Is that so?

COL. WILD: Yes - that is, it must be maintained by some authorized agency.

MR. UTGARD: That would give us more expense all the time. The feeling in Diking District No.1 is that the flood control here is in straightening and dredging

the river.

COL. WILD: Is Diking District No. 4 represented? (no response.) District No. 17? (no response.) Drainage District No. 19? (no response.)

MR. WELTS: I would like to call upon Mr. Wright.

MR. L. J. WRIGHT (Assistant County Engineer, Mount Vernon): I want to submit this accumulated data and I thought it would be simpler to submit it in writing. I understood from your notice that you wanted this submitted in six copies, and there are six copies here. This first document (App. A-1) is general statistical data and the other deals with general and specific problems on the river. I did not prepare this one, it was just handed to me this morning (App. A-2).

COL. WILD: In order that the others may be given a chance to discuss this, I might read parts briefly.

MR. WELTS: We have attempted to compile figures on known damage, and the County Engineers Office, through Mr. Wright, has made this compilation showing the extent of damage from floods on the Skagit River. We also wished to submit data concerning the number of diking and drainage districts and the amount of money they have spent in attempting to solve the question through the years.

COL. WILD: I will read this briefly so that the others may know what it is. (Reads pertinent parts of App. A-2.) The other document is purely statistical and it would be useless to read it at this time. (Refers to App. A-1.) I note it says "We the undersigned", but it is not signed by anyone.

MR. WRIGHT: I think you have a petition accompanying it. It should be attached to it.

COL. WILD: There is no petition attached.

MR. WRIGHT: We will undertake to supply that later in the meeting. In reference to this compilation, it consists of statements of actual expenditures over a period of about 15 years to take care of damages and ordinary upkeep of our diking and drainage system. It contains statements of losses, some of them segregated into classes of loss on known floods and total known losses of all floods by dates, and reports of average losses over a large number of years - I think going back as far as 40 years. Other than that the data is purely statistical.

MR. WELTS: May I ask Mr. Valentine a question? Have you made a compilation of statistics on the nature of crops grown in that area subject to damage by floods?

MR. VEY VALENTINE (County Agriculture Agent, Mt. Vernon): I haven't compiled anything, but I have been over it enough so I can give it roughly. You mean for the agricultural crops of Skagit County subject to damage by overflow?

MR. WELTS: Yes.

MR. VALENTINE: Roughly, the area produces about \$10,000,000 annually, and those incomes divide about as follows: Dairy income is about \$5,500,000, poultry is \$1,250,000, and the remainder of the \$10,000,000 for cash crops, consisting of seed crops, potatoes, sugar beets, and the feed crops for the dairy and poultry, the income, as I say, is the cash income. Roughly, \$5,500,000 for dairy, \$1,250,000 for poultry, that is a total of \$4,750,000; then the remainder of \$5,250,000 for cash crops, subject I would say largely to overflow.

MR. WELTS: Will you explain the growth of seed in the valley, grown on the land subject to overflow?

MR. VALENTINE: Better than 90% of the cabbage seed of the United States is grown in this valley. The only spots where they grow cabbage are in New York and a few small lots of Long Island. Beet seed has some competition - turnips and rutabagas have competition. Probably one of the richest cash crops we have had recently subject to overflow is our potatoes and sugar beet crop. About one-third of the Bellingham produce of sugar beets, for the Bellingham plant, is grown in this county. Four hundred carloads of potatoes were shipped out this fall.

MR. WELTS: Is that the nature of the information you want?

COL. WILD: No. Those are all matters of statistics. We want to know what the people want done and whether they will then be able to raise the money to comply with the act of Congress.

MR. J. T. MASON (County Commissioner, Mt. Vernon): There is some possibility. What we want more than anything else is the mouths of the rivers dredged, so our flood waters can run out. The general sentiment is opposed to Avon Cut-off. We only have two natural outlets and if they are taken care of, they will take care of our flood solution, I believe. That is the real solution of the floods in Skagit County. I don't know how we can raise that amount of money to meet the requirement for the Avon Cut-off.

COL. WILD: Would you mind outlining briefly how you would handle this dredging - where you would put the spoil, etc?

MR. MASON: I am not very much up on dredging, but there is only one thing to do. The majority of the farmers on the rivers are in favor of using what comes out as a dike for further protection, so I can't see where there would be much opposition to its being put on the banks of the river. Everyone is in favor of that.

COL. WILD: What would they do after the first dredging and they have to dredge the second time - where would they put that?

MR. MASON: That is a problem, but there are several farmers here who live along the river banks and I would like to ask them what they think about it.

COL. WILD: We know pretty well what the opinion is on that, but we want to get an idea of how you would go about doing it.

MR. MASON: I was at a meeting the other evening and the sentiment there was to straighten the river and dredge it from Mount Vernon to deep water. We wouldn't have any oyster beds to contend with. By doing so, everyone feels that the river would take care of itself by giving it a proper channel to go into deep water.

COL. WILD: What is the rise and fall of the tide at Mount Vernon?

MR. MASON: I would say about four inches on high tide at Mount Vernon. Our highest tide is approximately 12 or 15 feet. Occasionally we have a heavy wind which makes it higher, but that is an act of God.

MR. E. D. BARBEN, (Sedro Woolley): I live in the Day Creek community. I want to say something regarding the Skagit River. I have been a settler here for the last 47 years and I have seen those hamlets growing into great towns and prosperous communities, I came here when it was in a wild state. I have been up and down the river more or less ever since I came here and I have noticed that there have been attempts made different times to do something with the Skagit River. They have spent considerable money now and then, and none of it was spent to dredge the mouth of the river. When you go up to the head of the river and follow it down here as far as Mount Vernon and if you think that you could dredge that enormous amount of land that caves in, I think it would break every taxpayer in the State of Washington as I see it. My idea was always to start at the head of it and stop the erosion up above, then straighten out the river as near as you can in a straight line, and I believe by doing that you are going to save millions of dollars. But trying to dredge out the mouth of Skagit River, I can't see how there will ever be money enough to dredge it out. This is just my opinion and I think if we would leave it to a lot of engineers to examine it and consult some of the oldest settlers that know just where the river has run and the amount of land that has slipped into the river, they would get a pretty good idea and go ahead in a proper way to handle the Skagit River. I believe that it could be handled very cheaply considering the amount of work. I have always said let the river do the dredging but keep it cut through those islands and take the elbows out and put the river in as nearly a straight line as possible, and in the time of high freshet if they would have two powerful boats going out and keeping that straight channel from clogging, that would be one of the main things and then let the water fill the old channels on each side. That would be about the most economical and cheapest way to handle the river.

MR. MASON: There is one thing I would like to say about Day Creek. There is a large amount of land which Day Creek is a menace to - approximately 5,000 acres. The Creek is a baby river really and when the water gets up it is a river. There are a lot of farmers who are being damaged both as to cleared land and timbered land, and we were over the situation last week and we feel that if there is any possible chance in the world we would like to see a project set up and something done on it. There isn't much use of our putting money out on the Skagit River and letting its tributaries go. There is also Friday Creek and Samish River. It is doing a lot of damage and we would like to get busy.

COL. WILD: For your information, there is a W.P.A. project on the Samish and on the upper Skagit that we have been trying for 1½ years to get started. There is no relief labor available there. We attempted to start it a dozen times.

MR. MASON: We have centered all our men on the river jobs. They want to start a two project setup on the river. The Engineer Department feels that the river is more essential than the other. Our attitude was to leave it to you without bothering you on it.

MR. BARBEN: Could I be allowed another moment? I would like to show you on that map (refers to wall map) this Day Creek community. Day Creek is going to change that channel if something is not done very soon. There are going to be several hundred acres ruined, but it is going to change the channel. Right now there is a bar approximately 800 feet. We took the Board of County Commissioners along that creek a few days ago and if this bar were cut through about 800 feet it would relieve and probably head off that enormous calamity, and the expense wouldn't be so very large. If they could take a bulldozer up there in a matter of three or four days they would straighten the channel. That would bring the creek in a straight line and the danger headed off with very little expense. That would give it relief until we get better organized so the state engineer corps would then have it in hand to make a regular project of it. But this bar should be attended to immediately.

MR. MASON: Just one more word. A while ago you spoke about our money. We have with us here our county auditor and he could explain just how much money we can use if you would like to hear him.

COL. WILD: I do not think it makes much difference if you cannot meet this local cooperation in the act of Congress. That is your problem - to meet it. If you want the Avon Cut-off built you have to meet these conditions, and it is a problem of local interest to meet them.

MR. MASON: There are quite a few here who would like to know how much money could be raised.

MR. CARL P. KLOKE (County Auditor): You asked about the possibility of raising a certain sum. Under state law we are limited to a total indebtedness of 8% of the assessed valuation of our county. Our county has an assessed valuation of \$20,000,000. In order to expend that amount, it would require a vote of the people carried by a three-fifths majority.

MR. WELTS: How many districts are there?

MR. KLOKE: There are 24 diking and drainage districts - 23 with the small drainage district.

MR. A. G. NOSIER (Civil Engineer, Sedro Woolley): I understand you wanted in writing any ideas we might have.

COL. WILD: Yes.

MR. MOSTER: I drew up a paper here which I will read (Reads App. A-5.) You ask about what would be done with the dirt. I contend that 90% of the silt comes from erosion in banks. With these dams constructed in upper waters you will admit that no silt will come through the dams. Necessarily, the silt must be from the valley itself if the dams are constructed. It would be an easy matter to reclaim a great many acres of tide land at the mouth of the river with excavated material. It might be pure sand and yet valuable. From what has been experienced in other places, it is only a matter of two or three years until it becomes productive soil. Along the banks you could build heavy dikes and if necessary you could get a small tract of land and make a waste dump on it and keep it for that, and your necessity for re-dredging would not be as essential as you think, provided you stop the erosion of the banks first.

MR. J. H. HULBERT, Mt. Vernon: I didn't expect to talk, but I don't believe that people realize what a large undertaking it is when we start talking about Skagit River. The general opinion of the farmers seems to be against the Avon Cut-off and they don't just understand how the channel will be, and probably at the present time will turn that down. I hope that we will get something out of this. If we turn down the Avon Cut-off, is that the end of it?

COL. WILD: I cannot predict the future acts of Congress.

MR. HULBERT: A large percentage of the best land in Skagit County is close to the mouth of the river. Where you dredged Swinomish it has lowered the Skagit River at low tide and it has been quite a protection to the dikes. If there is some way of doing a little more work close to the slough and going up the river there, maybe make a by-cut, it would help quite a territory. If you could dredge up the "Hole in the Wall" part way and maybe make a cut-off, it would help quite a lot of delta land and take a lot more water at high water.

COL. WILD: For the benefit of some of you who think it will not fill up afterward, I might state that Swinomish was dug 12 feet deep last October and has already filled up from four to seven feet in that length of time near the "Hole in the Wall". It shows you how long the mouth of the river would probably stay dredged.

MR. HULBERT: Is that from bank erosion? Isn't it shifting of the sea bed?

COL. WILD: I am not prepared to say.

MR. HULBERT: Swinomish Slough has done a lot of good and has saved a lot of money. If you go on up the river a little way it will protect Swinomish to a certain extent.

MR. WELTS: I would like to call upon Mr. Meehan, who has set up nearly all the diking and drainage districts.

MR. JOHN MEEHAN: At one time there was 185,000 second-feet at the Great Northern bridge. This side of where the cement plant is, there is a rocky shore and couldn't that be made into another reservoir? You could rock up one side and

narrow up the stream. My policy would be to go up to the source. If you can corral two or three tributaries it will corral the rest. I don't like the Avon Cut-off. I am afraid of it.

MR. UTGARD: I represent a drainage district that has a problem not as extensive as Day Creek, Drainage District No.1. They have put in a drainage system on bond issue and practically have their bonds paid, or to a great extent anyway. They are pretty good financially. They have built their dikes and the Skagit River is backing up on them. When the river comes in it backs up and holds water, so they have to some extent wasted their money. From the turn this discussion has taken, it is like building a house - the first thing must be the foundation - you wouldn't build the roof first. The first thing is whether we can raise the money or not. If it is the concensus of opinion we can't raise \$1,800,000 in this county what is the use of discussing minor projects that might be component parts of this scheme. I don't see that it is possible in the very nature of things for this county to take an indebtedness such as the government is demanding, and if that be proved it looks like a futile thing to talk about fixing Day Creek or District No.1 or any of the others. If we can't raise the money we are all buttoned up.

MR. J. KOOPS (Merchant, Lyman): We held a meeting the other night. There is a lot of damage caused by the river cutting in on the town of Lyman.

CAPTAIN TRUDEAU (Corps of Engineers, U.S. Engineer Office, Seattle): That is part of a W.P.A. project, and work will start about April 1st.

MR. KOOPS: There have been several surveys made on Lyman. About 15 of us went to the W.P.A. and asked them to start before the fall floods last year but we were told it couldn't be done. The project at Skiyon and Utopia had to be taken care of first. But the fact that a W.P.A. engineer was up here this week...

COL. WILD: This is entirely a separate matter. Captain Trudeau will be very glad to discuss it with you.

MR. KOOPS: They came up this week and said they couldn't work on the project.

COL. WILD: Captain Trudeau will be glad to discuss it with you. This has nothing to do with immediate work on the river at any point. Anything we decide has to first go through Congress, be authorized by Congress, and money appropriated. Anything to be done as a result of this meeting will not take place for two years at least. What we want to find out is any plan which anyone might wish to advance for control of Skagit River, and whether or not they can raise the money to take care of any land damages, provide the rights of way, and maintain the works. There is no point in discussing any work in connection with a W.P.A. project.

MR. KOOPS: I wanted to discuss changing the channel at Lyman. The river has changed the channel. The old channel used to be across the island. It used to run straight across. If the river was straightened out across the island it would be a benefit to Day Creek. I have been up and down this river from the

mouth and I would say that it would eliminate a lot of the erosion.

MR. BARBEN: I think that applies to the very idea of our most able engineer in the Skagit County, Mr. Mosier. He is on the right track. You have to stop the erosion up the river by straightening out the river and then let the river do its own filling back in the old river bed. I think Mr. Mosier's report covered that pretty well.

MR. MOSIER: In speaking about the way of meeting the expense of this work - as you know, two years ago we passed the flood control act, but they insisted on taking in the whole county instead of the drainage area. If this legislature does pass the new control act in which the state will assume a part of this burden and if this work was done as I mentioned in Sauk River, I believe this county could bear its share, which possibly might not be over 25%. If they should see fit to vote the flood control district, I think the finances could be met.

COL. WILD: As I understand it, you are advocating a storage dam and reservoir on the Sauk?

MR. MOSIER: Yes. It has a very large drainage area and it is one of the important streams in regard to floods. If that were controlled, with the other dams, one already in and the other assured, it would solve our flood situation, and I believe a flood control district in the county would finance it.

MR. H. R. ABBOTT (Farmer, Mt. Vernon): You are talking about raising the money. Does the law say we must furnish the right of way?

COL. WILD: Yes.

MR. ABBOTT: By cutting off the points on the river there would be no right of way to buy. Do you think the people have to have very much pay for their property?

COL. WILD: You can answer that question better than I can. You generally have to pay for land when you try to cut across it, and it is my experience that they want pretty good money. It is always the best farm in the county when you want to cut across it.

MR. ABBOTT: The big expense of Avon Cut-off is bridges. There are no bridges in cutting off the points.

COL. WILD: I think, off-hand, to answer your question, that if the plan advocated by Mr. Mosier would solve the problem the local cooperation involved would be less than the Avon Cut-off.

MR. ABBOTT: I am the dike commissioner in Diking District No. 12 and all the people I talk to want the river dredged. One man wants a spillway at Ferry, another at Sterling and another at Sedro Woolley, no spillway at Avon. But every man was in favor of dredging the river.

MR. JOHN WYLIE (Diking Dist. No.18, Mt. Vernon): I am down in the jumping off place where it drowns when it does flood. Mr. Mosier's suggestions are for a good part, my own. Is the Avon Cut-off the only thing that will hold the river? The dam on the Sauk River would eliminate a lot of floods and also would furnish electric energy for this country later on. Of course there is the cost of the Avon Cut-off everybody is against. But I don't know, if the people up here had the same way of getting money as California they might borrow from the Government without interest. California borrowed \$27,500,000 without interest for 40 years, and if we could borrow accordingly we would have enough money to put the Avon Cut-off in with 40 years to pay for it. There is one thing about these floods, we are going to have floods despite anything said about getting rid of them at the lower end of the salt water dikes. There should be some spillways. Regardless of what you do, there is going to be a flood. The best suggestion is Mr. Mosier's I think.

MR. GRANT SISSON, (Sec. Skagit County Planning Council): I have heard expressions on Avon Cut-off and from the standpoint of the farmers where I live they are most of them opposed to it, primarily because of the cost, feeling that it is impossible for the county to raise any such amount of money. I have also heard a great deal of discussion with reference to a cut-off starting at Sterling bend and going across Olympia marsh to Joe Leary Slough. I don't know the exact distance, but I have been told it is about seven miles from Sterling to Padilla Bay by Olympia marsh. I think that the logical place for a cut-off, assuming that the water would reach your intake farther up the river where the river is straighter. I am satisfied in my own mind, living out on Padilla Bay, that your best plan would be to go out through the Joe Leary Slough area. It is a suggestion on my part. In connection with that, it would be of great importance to people who live in and around the Samish River area. They have property that means just as much to them as it does to us near the Skagit. They are flooded frequently, and they should be taken into consideration. I would favor any kind of a cut-off starting up above near the Sterling bend.

COL. WILD: If no one else wishes to make a statement, I will turn the meeting over to Mr. Andrews.

(Mr. Andrews took charge of hearing at 11:10 a.m.)

MR. ANDREWS: Colonel Wild has indicated what the responsibilities of the War Department are, and I will reread the responsibilities given by this Flood Control Act of 1936 to the Department of Agriculture.

(Reads)

In other words, the War Department has been given the job of what we call the downstream engineering. That involves major reservoirs, dams, revetments, levees, etc. The Department of Agriculture has been given the job of looking into the so-called upstream engineering, which includes land use of all forms on the watershed, and possibly minor engineering works on the very small streams in the upper stretches. The Department of Agriculture is interested in both water retardation and in soil erosion, because both have an effect on flood control.

The War Department has, of course, as you all know, made several surveys and investigations on this and other streams in the state. The Department of Agriculture has yet to make its first examination and report. We have been called upon, however, to make reports on some 35 streams in both Oregon and Washington, one of which is the Skagit, and I should like to read one short sentence from the committee report which shows what the Department of Agriculture hopes to get from such a hearing.

(Reads from par. 8 of Flood Control Coordinating Committee letter of January 13, 1937.)

Our report is yet to be made, and any field work we do is yet to be done. However, before anything is done, I should appreciate any suggestions from anybody at this hearing as to what forms of land use; what modifications of present land use -- whether it be the way you plow your land or whether you leave it fallow in the winter; the methods of logging and lumbering; methods of grazing in the upper stretches -- whether it be on public or private land; or any other form of land use that has affected or may affect water retardation or soil conservation.

The meeting is open for any suggestions or any comments, or any of your ideas.

MR. WELTS: Mr. Chairman: In order that your department may have a record of what has been said, or at least the portion that relates to revetments or prevention of erosion, might we not have the record that Colonel Wild's office makes thrown in as introduced here?

MR. ANDREWS: It will be merged with this part of the report.

MR. H. R. ABBOTT: I would like to ask a question about what Mr. Barben said about Day Creek. Do you think your department has enough authority to cut a sand bar to save 400 acres?

MR. ANDREWS: We have no authority to do any work until Congress appropriates funds for that work. What we want at this time are your suggestions as to any modifications in the present land-use economy on this watershed that may help in flood control.

MR. BARBEN: You are open for suggesting an idea of help to prevent floods? Is that it?

MR. ANDREWS: Any form of land use on watershed that may help retard floods.

MR. BARBEN: I was just going to give an idea -- many here will tell you the same thing -- one of our greatest menaces in the past has been the cutting off of timber. That induced greatly our flood situation. The water will practically seek the lowest level in about -- well, I would say, in five or six times quicker time than it did before the timber was on the ground; and I have always felt sorry for the coming generation, the way that timber was used and slaughtered, and we are robbing the coming generation out of what rightly belongs to them and have destroyed about two-thirds of it.

I think if we would take this reforestation project and look that over; I believe if we would reforest a great lot of this waste land that probably would lie hundreds of years before anybody would attempt to go there and make a living or make a home; I believe that would be some means to lessen our flood trouble.

Now when you ask the question about concerning how to till the soil that is in danger of freshets: I have somewhere along about 10 acres. I just have to watch my time to plow, because if the water comes over 4 or 5 feet, the soil will be gone; so, just as I say, I have to watch the time when I want to plow and cultivate and re-seed; and perhaps a good many other men here are in the same fix as I am; and there would be only grasses, really, that you could seed, because you couldn't till the soil for anything else and leave the ground open.

MR. ANDREWS: Have you any concrete suggestion as to the specific form or practice that should be followed or carried out on land immediately adjacent to the water's edge -- that is, within a half or a quarter of a mile? Have you any suggestions as to whether there should be anything but grass there as against plowed land?

MR. BARBEN: No, not particularly; I wouldn't really be farmer enough to know what to give or advise on that. There are men here that have farmed here practically all their lives who could give better information. (I was a contractor and in other kinds of business.) I could give a pretty good idea concerning my land. I heard a man tell me he seeded

in "Johnson" (?) grass, and that they tried it back in Kansas, in some area, and it became such a menace that the farmers cursed the man that ever put the seed in the ground. I think "Johnson" grass would be the real thing all right; it is a good stayer and probably would help stop erosion to some extent.

MR. ANDREWS: Has anybody else any suggestions as to any form of practice on either farm or forest land which will have any effect on the retardation of flow of water away from the land, or on the silting of reservoirs or formation of sand bars, etc.?

MR. (a farmer): Mr. Chairman: I don't know what has been said (I came in late), but we have just got through building about 15 miles of new ditches between here and La Conner, and we know that at the present time the river bed is too high up -- it brings the water level up; and for that reason we had to put in a lot of new ditches. Simply, the water in the river never would go down to bring the water level down; so it appears to us farmers that if the river was dredged out and would lower the water level down, then it would just naturally drop the water level, that is, around our farm lands.

As this man just said, he had to catch just certain times when the water was down in order to plow his land. That is our trouble. The very best land lays in the low places; so in order to drain those low places, we have got to keep the water level down. The only way to do it appears to be to clear out the river or by some other means. We know the water level is high in this river, especially down to the mouth of the river. That is the reason we had to cut a new outlet for our drainage. We had to leave the old slough, originally our outlet, and dig a new ditch to Swinomish Slough, and thus lowered the water level several feet. If the river had been dredged, it wouldn't have been necessary to do this at all. Most of the people of our district seem to think that would solve the problem -- dredge the lower section and lower the level of the river.

MR. BARBEN: That would solve the problem until the next freshet. If you take anything out and then there was a freshet and those hundreds of acres slid into the river, how are you going to pull that out at the mouth? It is up the river where you've got to stop erosion. If you go up and look at the river at time of flood, you will find out pretty quick. How else can you help but fill in the bottom of the river mouth with the hundreds of acres of mud and fine silt? It will naturally fill in.

MR. GRAY: I have been on this river 35 years and have seen lots of floods when the river gets bank-full and forms pockets and cuts, or undermines the soil, which rolls off down the river. Nothing is going to protect that land until the river is kept straight. I have watched it many times undermine the banks at curves and wash the soil down the river. That is the greatest trouble. A jam of drift forms and throws the current over and it goes to undermining the banks; and nothing will stop it until the river is straightened. I have watched it for 35 years and I say that more damage is done in that way than by overflowing the

P 001505

tops of banks.

MR. ANDREWS: Is the overflow of any benefit?

MR. GRAY: Well, not often.

MR. ANDREWS: Has the local county agent any suggestions as to any forms of land use or practice which might have any remedial effect? -- I don't ask for a suggestion which will cure the situation; I merely ask for suggestions as to what might help.

MR. VALENTINE: I think Mr. Barben covered the only thing -- that is, the reforestation of the hills. We have, in this valley, a varying rainfall. A 20-year record shows average annual fall for Coupeville, 19 inches, Anacortes 27 inches, Sedro Woolley 46, and the Cascade 140. Well, now with that flood water coming down on us from above -- 140 inches rainfall -- I don't think any surface culture is going to be a drop in the bucket. I think the only thing possible is to maintain the forest.

MR. ANDREWS: What do you mean by the term, "maintain the forest" -- better fire protection? limitations on cutting?

MR. VALENTINE: There are great areas near Lyman and Hamilton they have just left bare for years; that is what I mean by destruction of the forest: instead of having the young material growing up, it is still bare slopes. Anything that falls goes into the river.

MR. ANDREWS: Is that largely a matter of better fire protection?

MR. VALENTINE: I think it is largely a matter of lumbering.

MR. ANDREWS: That might apply to areas yet to be cut, but how about those cut over now?

MR. VALENTINE: Those being cut over now are the same. Of those that have been cut over, many are still bare, are not re-covered.

MR. ANDREWS: Would you feel that the local sentiment in favor of good fire control in the woods here is the best?

MR. VALENTINE: Yes, sir.

MR. ANDREWS: No chance for any improvement?

MR. VALENTINE: Well, I wouldn't say that; but I believe the farmers of the valley are 100 percent behind fire control, and I think most of us agree that since the CCC boys came here the fire control has been improved.

MR. ANDREWS: Thank you.

P 001506

MR. MOSIER: Mr. Chairman: In regard to this reforestation here on this slope on the west side of the Cascades, I believe that Nature reforests as fast as can be done by man. It has been my observation that these cut-off tracts are very rapidly coming back. I know many places where the second growth is now 12, 15, or 20 feet high on land cut off a few years ago. I think that that feature is being done in the natural way better than it can be done any other way. Where there is any soil at all, our slopes are reforesting. You can take the Clear Lake country: it is just covered with undergrowth, on the north side, it is fast reforesting. Nature is taking care of reforestation better than man can do it.

MR. BARREN: I would say this: while some land, it is true, as Mr. Mosier stated, does reforest itself just by Nature; but there are thousands of acres that don't do that, and I can not only vouch for this, but I can prove it by taking you there and showing you. It has been logged off seven or eight years, and it might be that a little spruce or a little cedar twig grows, but not to notice.

MR. ANDREWS: Well, we can probably verify the factual information at any time. What we particularly want to know, more than any details as to conditions of the land, is any ideas you people have as to what cooperative action you might take to improve the situation.

Mr. Langloe, of the State Department of Conservation and Development, has been handling these problems a long time. I wonder if he has any suggestions?

MR. LANGLOE: Well, Mr. Andrews, I came up here this time to listen. I will say it usually amuses me a little when they talk about the effect of forests on floods. I don't know your attitude, but I quite often make myself unpopular and may do so now.

The maximum ^{recorded} flood discharge of the Skagit is 220,000 second-feet. According to the studies made by the U. S. Geological Survey, they have unearthed absolute evidence to the effect that on two different occasions many long years ago -- probably about the year 1815, and also some time in the 1830's -- great floods occurred in this particular valley. They have, by careful measurements of slopes there, made estimates indicating that during the maximum flow of one of those two floods (I forget which one they take as the maximum) the discharge of the Skagit was 500,000 second-feet. I don't know who had been logging the hills off at that time -- it might have been Paul Bunyan; at least, it was before they started operating either high lines or any other kind along the Cascades.

From all the reading I have been able to do, and as other people have said who have tried to study these things, there is no particular evidence that deforestation causes any great increase in floods. There is some evidence to the contrary; there is every reason to believe that forests may help floods along.

When it comes to soil erosion, I will admit the logger is guilty, because the soil erosion does follow the logger with any methods used so far.

P 001507

Now this doesn't contain any solution or any answer to the question you are asking; but I just don't believe that we, here in Western Washington, want the records that go back to Washington to indicate that we think we cannot, with proper methods, continue cutting our timber; because we have got to keep on cutting, and can do so if we use more care in preserving the timber. It just occurred to me that I wanted to put that in the record.

MR. ANDREWS: Have you any suggestion for any change in land use practice which would have any beneficial effect?

MR. LANGLOR: Yes; I am very glad you asked that question. The erosion is very serious along the Skagit and along all our rivers on this side, and at some places on the east side also.

I have worn out a good deal of shoe leather in the past 35 years, in this region. I located a railroad at the headwaters of the Skagit 30 years ago this spring. I knew, for instance, what the mouth of the Sauk was at that time -- it was rather wild. There were some very nice farms some enterprising men had carved out of the forest at the mouth of the Sauk, but I have been there only two or three times in the last few years. Nothing, particularly, happened to the Sauk River watershed in the past 30 years. Very little logging was done, I would say; and the reason for what the river has done is what man did to the land up there. If I am to find any fault, it is with the way the farmer treats his river bank. He does seem to insist on plowing the very last furrow he can turn over, on that river. You will find here and along the Stillaguamish, the Snohomish, the Green -- all of them, the farmers today -- a good many farmers, those who have suffered by reason of loss of lands -- have, to a great extent, themselves to blame for it.

I think it is absolutely essential, along these wide streams that we have on this side, that a strip of timber or brush -- more particularly brush -- should be left as a protection to the river. Unless we do that, we will not help matters.

You take the revetments today -- some here, others elsewhere: I think they are very good revetments if the willows -- willow growth -- is encouraged; but along with that, I believe it is necessary to have a strip of brush -- and not so very narrow either. You will accomplish two things by so doing: in the first place, the overflow doesn't immediately start digging the soil. The second effect is by retarding the current at the bank, which is higher than the land farther back. It will continually build up and form a natural dike and will protect the land. Until the farmers do that, they will always have trouble. We have numerous examples of natural bank protection up and down some of these streams. For example, near Silvana there is a place, as you approach the bridge, coming this way, where you will notice a rather sharp curve, but there is no bank erosion. You will also notice there is a very heavy growth of willows, alders, and other brush.

If we are going to help matters in all these valleys, the farmers will have to pay for it. We have got to maintain and help nature in its own way, and we must quit being so greedy with respect to land.

If this doesn't fit in with your program, chop it out.

MR. ANDREWS: It is a form of land use.

MR. LANGLOE: Altho I am not holding the farmer blameless, he has probably done it in ignorance. The river bank is very often higher than the land farther back, and he wants to farm the land, but in doing so he damages himself, his neighbor and the river the whole length and breadth below.

Now I think that the control of erosion and the maintenance of some sort of vegetable cover is necessary and important; but let us stop thinking too much of our mountain sides and think more of our valley; and preferably, I would say, each man watch his own river front.

I have advocated the formation of flood-control districts. A lot of people think they are useless; but I have said, and am glad to have the opportunity to say here, that I do believe that the formation of flood-control districts is absolutely essential whether it be for the purpose of raising money or for the purpose of forming an organization, maintaining an organization that can represent the valley at such meetings as this. And when you reach a point where you have an organization who at least can present its demands, then you can get something. If nothing else, if a flood district can assert its legal control of river banks; maintain its construction; have a few hundreds or thousands of dollars which can be expended immediately -- now, -- you will be a long way toward stopping all this damage that occurs on every river. I would much rather see organizations with limited means, if need be, that can do the little things, than see organizations in the way of districts, or otherwise, go in and borrow large sums of money and do works perhaps unwise, place themselves in debt, and curse the damn thing for years afterward.

But I think one of the main things of an organization along the river valley is to patrol and watch the little things that happen every year. I can show you, on the Snohomish River, where a man drove his milk cows to water. The brush was in the way, so he slashed it about 57 feet wide. The cows went two or three or four times a day to the water. The bank was sandy and they soon dug up the roots that had held the bank for centuries. A big freshet came up, started erosion and took away soil, house, barn, and about a half-mile of road. The farm was so situated that they had to move the road back where they had to go out in the river, and they drove half a mile of piling, and there's where the road is today. A very costly thing, and they could have avoided it with an organization. It is a case of a stitch in time.

I think Avon Cut-off is all right, but I do believe the greatest thing we can do in the way of flood control is to take care of the small things from time to time. That will never be done by the county, but will be done by the property owners themselves, through their own organization, from year to year.

MR. ANDREWS: Thank you.

MR. WELTS: (R. V. Welts, Chairman, Skagit County Planning Council, and advisor to county commissioners.)

I would like to make a statement for this record, and realizing that your record is going to Washington for some study, I ask that this statement be made a part of Colonel Wild's hearing as well as this.

We have, in the Skagit Valley, probably 150 square miles of farming land, extremely rich and producing in this area a substantial portion of the wealth of the State of Washington. This land has been reclaimed from salt water by the erection of some 20 miles, probably, of salt-water dikes along the westerly shore line. We have the problem of the Skagit River and its tributaries and the Semish River, which threatens this area with constant overflow.

When the settlers came into this valley, the individual realized that he was not financially powerful enough to protect his land against the elements, and the farmers banded themselves together into organizations called diking and drainage districts. Through the years, they have built dikes against salt water on the western shore front, and dikes on the Semish and Skagit Rivers to protect from overflow. They have spent millions of dollars in the construction and maintenance of these improvements.

As we have diked on the Skagit River, the bed of that river has gradually risen until at normal water and at flood water we have a large volume quite a number of feet, and at times as high as 10 feet or more, above the natural level of the farming area. The drainage problems and the diking problems tie in together, because as the beds of these rivers have filled up, the drainage becomes poor and it is necessary to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in gaining adequate drainage through to the outlets.

It is apparent that dredging a narrow channel in the bottom of one of these rivers will not handle any additional amount of water at flood time sufficient to be of great benefit. The farmers have tilled the soil up close to the banks of the river; the dikes are built there, and the problem of dredging presents a situation where there is no place adequate to waste the sand that is taken from the river bed. In other words, it will result in an attempt to confine to too narrow an area the volume of water that must escape. That was faulty planning or lack of planning at the start. But the expenditures have been made and the farmers are attempting from their own pockets to keep that situation intact and improve it.

The economic situation in the valley is such that most of the farms are heavily mortgaged. Dike and drainage districts and their improvements are maintained solely by some assessments upon the land, independent of any public contribution. Financially, therefore, the farmer with his land mortgaged and with diking and drainage assessments which must be paid because these improvements must be kept up, is in a condition where he is financially unable to contribute substantial amounts of money which would aggregate some million and a half dollars in order to furnish local cooperation for the Avon Cut-off. There is no lack of willingness on the part of the farmers, the county, the various entities, to help solve this problem. Primarily, it is their problem. They know it. But they must have aid from a higher source, either state or nation, or a combination of those two, if this farm land is to be saved.

P 001510

The sentiment -- I think I speak accurately -- among the farmers of the valley, as far as the Avon Cut-off is concerned, is twofold: In the first place, because of these other drains on their resources, they feel that additional burden is too great for them to bear. In the second place, they are apprehensive of the cut-off because it will be another channel through the farm lands bordered by dikes, and they feel -- probably because of lack of knowledge of the operation of the cut-off -- that it will subject them to possible future inundation of their diked lands from another direction.

So that, speaking from the standpoint of the obligation, a bond issue on behalf of Skagit County to the extent of a million dollars or thereabouts could not possibly carry to the extent required by law to make it forthcoming. In the second place, a vote for that purpose would be county-wide and a large portion of the county is comprised of upland not directly menaced, of cities and towns, which, while we realize they should contribute, nevertheless feel that they would not go in debt to that extent, or should not, for this project.

It seems to me there are three or four things involved in this valley: In the first place, there is the source of water. The tributaries coming into the Skagit are the Baker, the Cascade, and the Sauk Rivers, and the smaller stream, Day Creek. There is a dam on the Baker River; there is a dam on the Skagit above the junction of the Cascade; the City of Seattle is erecting a further dam at Ruby Creek with a tremendous storage basin. The State law has a provision which permits the Department of Conservation and Development, I believe, or the supervisor of hydraulics -- I am not sure which -- control over the operation of these dams. If the Federal Government, or in cooperation with the State government, will see to it that the flow of water through these dams -- the proper dams at proper periods -- is adequately regulated so the basin will serve a dual purpose: first, furnish electrical energy, and second, as a regulation of flood waters by allowing sufficient water to escape before the flow from melting snow brought about by a chinook wind or excessive rainfall fills these storage basins full, a tremendous benefit will result in the lower valley. That is, regulation there can be done only through the power of the Federal Government and the State.

A dam on the Sauk River, as has been suggested also, of course, if financially possible, would be of tremendous benefit, and coupled with the dams on the Baker and upper Skagit, would go far toward solving the flood problem.

There are possibly three other things that must be worked in together with this regulation, the first of which, of course, is bank protection to protect from cutting and filling of the river bed.

Second, there is the matter of a by-pass, if necessary, either at Avon or at Sterling Bend and Joe Leary Slough. Joe Leary and Sterling Bend would be longer and more expensive and no doubt it has been studied by the Engineer Department.

The third thing would relate to the others and would fit in with what Mr. Langloe said, in one of two forms, either through the State or Federal Government acting, and this would be of land bordering on either side of the river which could be brushed over or ^{so} planted or regulated as to give the

maximum of benefit through protection, coupled with some dredging and the wasting of the land back from the river bed to a point where, when erected, there will be a channel wide enough to carry the tremendous flow of water in flood season.

The comparative cost or necessity for a cut-off also is a matter of study; but, inasmuch as the river does have a border of brush most of the way on both sides, this, being waste land, could possibly be acquired at less cost than the right of way for a by-pass, if, on study, that would be found to furnish an adequate channel for flood waters to use in escaping. Any dredging then could be used to furnish large dikes with sloping sides, so that, instead of very small, steep dikes, there will be a bank of some magnitude back from the river sufficiently distant to carry the water that must of necessity escape in spite of any regulation of these dams.

The local interests will do everything within their financial power to protect themselves and assist the Federal Government in its solution of this problem; but in view of the condition of the land itself today, being encumbered by mortgages; in view of the fact that these dikes must be maintained regardless of flood control, because we have the other menace -- salt water, the assessments on this farm land are bound to be continuous and heavy; and those two factors, with normal taxes, make it impossible for the farmer to bond himself or contribute a large amount of money found necessary under the present Congressional act, to put in and maintain the Avon By-pass.

MR. ANDREWS: Thank you. Although it is getting late, if there are any other comments I am still willing to hear from anybody who has anything very definite and concrete as a suggestion for any other form of land use which might be beneficial. (Pause.)

Seemingly there are no further comments at this time.

(Hearing adjourned at 12:04 p.m.)

P 001512

A list of those present follows:

- Lt. Col. H. J. Wild, District Engineer, U.S. Engineer Office, Seattle, Wash.
- Mr. H. J. M. Baker, Senior Engineer, U.S. Engineer Office, Seattle, Wash.
- Mr. E. I. Pease, Electrical Engineer, " " " "
- Captain Arthur G. Trudeau, Military Assistant " " " "
- Mr. H. J. Andrews, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Portland, Oregon.
- Mr. G. P. Walker, Padilla Point Oyster Co., Bay View, Wash.
- Mr. LeRoy H. Peth, farmer, Route 2, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. Henry Egbers, farmer, " " " "
- S Martin Tjerne, English Lumber Co., Stanwood, Wash.
- Mr. T. G. Hasty, Asst. Engineer, Great Northern Railway, Seattle, Wash.
- Mr. H. F. Inholt, Asst. M.C. Great Northern Railway, Everett, Wash.
- Mr. I. M. Gitts, Puget Sound Power & Light Co., Seattle, Wash.
- Mr. Ed Cockrehan, farmer, Lyman, Wash.
- Mr. F. C. Fellows, banker, Lyman, Wash.
- Mr. R. W. Wright, farmer, Lyman, Wash.
- Mr. Chas. H. Flory, Supervisor, Mt. Baker Nat'l. Forest, Bellingham, Wash.
- Mr. Newton Field, Supt. of Construction, Mt. Baker Nat'l. Forest, Bellingham, Wash.
- Mr. Fred MacFarlane, Manager B.M. Logging Co., Route 3, Sedro Woolley, Wash.
- Mr. W. S. Stevens, farmer, Burlington, Wash.
- Mr. Chas. A. Alm, farmer, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. W. H. Ashley, Engineer, Olympia, Wash.
- Mr. Lars Langloe, Flood Engineer, Dept. of Conservation & Development, Olympia, Wash.
- Mr. W. A. Rockie, Soil Conservation Service, Spokane, Wash.
- Mr. Thomas K. Chambers, Attorney at Law, Mount Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. Fred Erickson, farmer, Mount Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. J. D. Johnson, Mount Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. Frank Panker, farmer, Clear Lake, Wash.
- Mr. Matt Bessner
- Mr. A. G. Mosler, Civil Engineer, Sedro Woolley, Wash.
- Mr. Ed Grant, Sedro Woolley, Wash.
- Mr. R. H. Bailey, Oyster business, Seattle, Wash.
- Mr. H. J. Waters " " Everett, Wash.
- Mr. Bert Bjorling, farmer, Mt. Vernon, Wash., Route #4.
- Mr. Ray A. Schak, logger, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. A. P. Johnson, farmer, Route 1, Bow, Wash.
- Mr. E. D. Barben, Route 3, Sedro Woolley, Wash.
- Mr. J. G. Marchant, Route 3, Sedro Woolley, Wash.
- Mr. Bert Marchant, Sedro Woolley, Route 3
- Mrs. C. B. Shronold, Mount Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. J. Koops, merchant, Lyman, Wash.
- Mr. J. E. Gray, City Council, Lyman, Wash.
- Mr. Marvis Jensen, Route 1, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. H. R. Abbott, farmer, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. W. A. Costello, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. Henry Lind, Route 4, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. Coit G. Utgard, Route 1, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
- Mr. Emil Hendrickson, Route 4, Mt. Vernon, Wash.

P 001513

Mr. J. H. Hulbert, Mt. Vernon, Route 1.
Mr. Roy Taylor, Construction Company employee, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. Gene Dunlap, LaConner, Washington.
Mr. A. Walls, U.S. Engineer Office, Seattle, Washington.
Mr. Emmet Egbert, Bow, Washington
Mr. G. J. Stover, Route 5, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. Clarence Eifrig, farmer, Route 1, Burlington, Wash.
Mr. L. J. Wright, Asst. County Engineer, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. J. H. Fellows, farmer, Route 4, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. H. B. Lee, farmer, Route 5, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. J. T. Mason, County Commissioner, Route 5, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. Grant Sisson, Sec. Skagit County Planning Council, Route 2, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. Ben Beach, Community Manager, Resettlement Administration, Everett, Wash.
Mr. Vey Valentine, County Agriculture Agent, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. Ben G. Nauman, Padilla Bay, Bow, Washington.
Mr. G. C. Berger, Route 1, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. C. G. Shranger, Skagit County Planning Council, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. John Wylie, Route 5, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Mr. C. H. Rosenquist, farmer, Edison, Wash.
Mr. R. V. Welts, Attorney, Chairman of Skagit Co. Planning Commission,
Mt. Vernon, Wash.

WAR DEPARTMENT
United States Engineer Office
754 Central Building
Seattle, Washington

February 16, 1937

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A joint public hearing will be held by the Departments of War and Agriculture in the City Council Rooms of the Mount Vernon City Hall, commonly known as the Fire Hall, located at Second and Broadway, Mount Vernon, Wash., at 10:00 A.M., Tuesday March 2, 1937, for the purpose of securing the views of interested parties relative to flood control on the Skagit River and its tributaries.

Congress has directed a preliminary examination of the Skagit River and its tributaries, with the view to control of their floods.

The Flood Control Act of 1936 provides --

"That, hereafter, Federal investigations and improvements of rivers and other waterways for flood control and allied purposes shall be under the jurisdiction of and shall be prosecuted by the War Department under the direction of the Secretary of War and supervision of the Chief of Engineers, and Federal investigations of watersheds and measures for run-off and waterflow retardation and soil erosion prevention on watersheds shall be under the jurisdiction of and shall be prosecuted by the Department of Agriculture under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, except as otherwise provided by Act of Congress; and that in their reports upon examinations and surveys, the Secretary of War and the Secretary of Agriculture shall be guided as to flood-control measures by the principles set forth in section 1 in the determination of the Federal interests involved: * * *

"That, hereafter no money appropriated under authority of this Act shall be expended on the construction of any project until States, political subdivisions thereof, or other responsible local agencies have given assurances satisfactory to the Secretary of War that they will (a) provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way necessary for the construction of the project, except as otherwise provided herein; (b) hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction works; (c) maintain and operate all the works after completion in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of War: PROVIDED, That the construction of any dam authorized herein may be undertaken without delay when the dam site has been acquired and the assurances prescribed herein have been furnished, without awaiting the acquisition of the easements and rights-of-way required for the reservoir area".

Information is desired:

As to amount and extent of damages caused by previous floods;

As to probable damages of future floods;

As to desired method of controlling floods; and as to the probability that the terms of local cooperation required by the Flood Control Act of 1936 will be complied with.

All interested parties are invited to be present.

Oral evidence will be heard, but for accuracy of record all important facts and arguments should be submitted in writing. Six copies of all letters, papers, maps and photographs submitted are desired. Written statements may be submitted to the undersigned at the hearing, or mailed to the District Engineer, U. S. Engineer Office, 754 Central Building, Seattle, Wash.

Thornton T. Munger, Director,
Pacific Northwest Forest
Experiment Station,
Portland, Oregon.

H. J. Wild,
Lt. Col., Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer

Mailing list

Notice of public hearing on the Skagit River flood control project was mailed to the following addresses:

Mailed by U. S. Engineer Office, Seattle, Wash.:

Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army,	Washington, D. C.
Division Engineer, North Pacific Division,	Portland, Oregon.
Honorable L. B. Schwollenbach, U. S. Senator,	Washington, D. C.
" Homer T. Bone, U. S. Senator,	" "
" Mon C. Wallgren, M. C.	" "
x U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Dept. of Agric.,	Spokane, Wash.
x U. S. Biological Survey, Dept. of Agric.,	Salt Lake City, Utah
Col. Howard A. Hanson, Arctic Bldg.,	Seattle, Wash.
State Development Committee, Chamber of Commerce,	" "
G. L. Parker, U. S. Geol. Survey,	Tacoma, Wash.
Capt. F. E. Lovejoy, Puget Sound Freight Lines,	Seattle, Wash.
The Director, Dept. of Conservation & Development,	Olympia, Wash.
Mr. Charles J. Bartholet, Supervisor of Hydraulics,	" "
Mr. Lacey V. Murrow, Director of Highways,	" "
Col. F. Mears, Asst. Chief Engr., Great Northern	
Railway Co., King Street Station,	Seattle, Wash.
Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce,	Mt. Vernon, Wash.
County Commissioners, Skagit County,	" "
The Mayor,	Anacortes, Wash.
The Mayor,	Mt. Vernon, Wash.
The Mayor,	Burlington, Wash.
The Mayor,	Sedro Woolley, Wash.
The Mayor,	Hamilton, Wash.
The Mayor,	Lyman, Wash.
The Mayor,	Concrete, Wash.
Mr. R. V. Welts, Attorney,	Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Prof. R. G. Tyler, Univ. of Washington,	Seattle, Wash.
Padilla Point Oyster Co., 1201 Third Ave.,	" "
Associated Oyster Lands, Inc., 304 Spring St.,	" "
State of Washington, Dept. of Health, Eng'rg Divn.,	" "
Alaska Building,	" "
Puget Sound Pulp & Timber Co.,	Clear Lake, Wash.
Sound View Pulp & Timber Co.,	Everett, Wash.
R. K. Tiffany, State Planning Council,	Olympia, Wash.
F. J. Walsh, Chamber of Commerce,	Tacoma, Wash.
Seattle Chamber of Commerce,	Seattle, Wash.
Dunlap Towing Co.,	La Conner, Wash.
Skagit Towing Co.,	Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Skagit River Navigation Co., Pier 7,	Seattle, Wash.
Capt. Ben Tingley,	Sedro Woolley, Wash.
Puget Sound Power & Light Co.,	Seattle, Wash.
Dept. of Lighting, City of Seattle,	" "
Northern Pacific Ry. Co.,	" "
Stone & Webster Eng. Corp., Central Terminal Bldg.,	" "
Newspapers:	
Mercury (daily)	Anacortes, Wash.
American (weekly)	" "
Puget Sound Mail (weekly)	La Conner, Wash.
Mt. Vernon Daily Herald,	Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Argus (weekly)	" "
Journal (weekly)	Burlington, Wash.
Courier-Times (weekly)	Sedro Woolley, Wash.
Post Intelligencer,	Seattle, Wash.
Seattle Times,	" "

The Commissioners, Diking Dist. No. 1,	Mt. Vernon, Wash.
" " " No. 2,	" "
" " " No. 3,	" "
" " " No. 4,	" "
" " " No. 5,	" "
" " " No. 8,	" "
" " " No. 9,	" "
" " " No. 12,	" "
" " " No. 13,	" "
" " " No. 15,	" "
" " " No. 16,	" "
" " " No. 17,	" "
" " " No. 18,	" "
" " " No. 19,	" "
" " " No. 20,	" "
" " " No. 21,	" "
The Commissioners, Drainage Dist. No. 13,	Mt. Vernon, Wash.
" " " No. 14,	" "
" " " No. 15,	" "
" " " No. 16,	" "
" " " No. 17,	" "
" " " No. 18,	" "
" " " No. 19,	" "
" " " No. 20,	" "
" " " No. 21,	" "
" " " No. 22,	" "

Mailed by Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station, Portland, Oregon:

Clarence D. Martin, Governor, State of Washington, Olympia, Wash.
Secretary of State, " "
State Treasurer, " "
Bernard F. McCauley, Director of Game, 401 Lloyd Bldg., Seattle, Wash.
A. C. Martin, Commissioner of Public Lands, Olympia, Wash.
Regional Forester, Forest Service, P.O.Box 4137, Portland, Oregon.
Forest Supervisor, Mt. Baker National Forest, Bellingham, Wash.
T. S. Goodyear, State Supervisor of Forestry, Olympia, Wash.
B. M. Brennan, Director, Dept of Fisheries, 707 Lloyd Building, Seattle, Wash.
Director, Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, Pullman, Wash.
Superintendent, Western Washington Branch, Wash. State Agricultural Experiment Sta., Puyallup, Wash.
University of Washington, College of Forestry, Seattle, Wash.
Biological Survey, Olympia, Wash.
Regional Supervisor, Biological Survey, U.S. Court House, Portland, Oregon.
District Engineer, Geological Survey, P.O.Bldg., " "
District, Engineer, Bureau of Public Roads, P. O. Building, " "
U. S. Weather Bureau, Seattle, Wash.
Regional Director, Resettlement Administration, Mayer Building, Portland, Oregon.
R. F. Bessey, Consultant, National Resources Committee, U. S. Court House, " "
Fred Frasier, County Agent, Whatcom Co., Federal Building, Bellingham, Wash.
V. J. Valentine, County Agent, Skagit Co., Mt. Vernon, Wash.
A. Z. Smith, County Agent, Snohomish Co., Federal Building, Everett, Wash.
H. P. Dorsey, Chairman, Whatcom Co., Planning Commission, Bellingham, Wash.
R. V. Wertz, Chairman, Skagit Co., Planning Commission, Mt. Vernon, Wash.
Wm. Mero, Chairman, Snohomish Co., Planning Commission, Snohomish, Wash.

F. E. Balmer, Director of Extension, State College of Washington,	Pullman, Wash.
E. R. Hoffman, State Director, Public works Administration,	Olympia, "
Ervin E. King, Master, Washington State Grange, 3123 Western Ave.,	Seattle, Wash.
Don S. Johnson, Pres., Wash. State Sportsmen's Council, 1005 4th & Pike Sts.,	" "
Chamber of Commerce,	Sedro Woolley, Wash.
" "	Burlington, Wash.
C. S. Cowan, Washington Forest Fire Ass'n Henry Building,	Seattle, Wash.
Col. W. B. Greeley, West Coast Lumbermen's Association, Stuart Bldg.,	" "
E. H. Meiklejohn, Pacific Northwest Loggers' Association, Stuart Bldg.,	" "
James O'Hearne, Mgr., English Lumber Co.,	Mt. Vernon, Wash.
C. E. Bingham, Pres., Bradsberry Lumber Co.,	Sedro Woolley, Wash.

EMCCW-P (22 Jun 60) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Skagit River, Washington

Office, Chief of Engineers, Washington 25, D. C., 22 July 1960

TO: Division Engineer, U. S. Army Engr Div, No Pacific, Portland, Ore

1. Upon the request of the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, it is requested that this resolution be combined with the outstanding investigation, same subject, as requested by resolution of the Committee on Public Works, United States Senate, adopted 4 January 1960.

2. Copy of letter to House Public Works Committee is inclosed.

FOR THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS:

2 incls
1 Cy Res 9 Jun 60
2 Cy ltr ONE to HPub
Wks Com 21 Jul 60

ROBERT M. FARBOX
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Assistant Director of Civil Works

1st Ind
Office, Division Engineer
NO PACIFIC DIV, Portland, Ore.
TO: [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 22, 1960

LT. General A. C. Itschner
Chief of Engineers
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear General:

Enclosed is a resolution adopted by the Committee
on June 9, 1960 directing the Corps of Engineers
to proceed with a review investigation of Ischnowish,
Spilligamish, Stagit and Hocksack Rivers, Washington.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Buckley, M.C.
Chairman
Committee on Public Works

RESOLUTION

Resolved by the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives, United States, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors be, and is hereby, requested to review the reports on Skagit River, Washington, published as House Document numbered 187, 73d Congress, 2d Session, and other reports, with a view to determining whether any modification of the recommendations contained therein is desirable at the present time, with particular reference to provision of flood control and allied improvements in the basin.

Adopted JUN

Margaret R. Butler

Attest:

Clerk.

(Requested by Rep. Jack Westland)
Rep. Don Magnuson)