

9 Jan 64

**Avon Bypass, Meeting with State Representatives** - A breakfast meeting was held at the Tyee Motor Lodge, Olympia, Washington with Congressman Westland and other interested parties in regard to the Avon Bypass Project and the improvements included with the hearing scheduled for 10 January. **The meeting was arranged by Mr. George Dynes.** This office had been invited to send a representative to provide technical background information. The purposes of the meeting and of the visit by the Skagit County group to the Olympia area were twofold. First, to acquaint Mr. Westland and the State representatives with full details about the planning for flood control improvements, and secondly for Skagit County representatives to meet with the State Highway Commission to arrive at a plan of State and County financing of the flood control improvements. Attending were:

Congressman Jack Westland:	
Don Eldridge	House of Representatives, State of Wash.
Duane Berentson	" " " "
George Dynes	Citizen's Committee, Avon Bypass
Noble Lee	" " " "
Scott Richards	Chairman, Skagit Board of County Commissioners
Lloyd Johnson	County Engineer, Skagit County
Ivan Gilbertson	Mayor of Starwood
R. H. Geaney	COFE
*E. Gullidge	"
*R. W. Edens	"

\* Guests at breakfast, had other assignments in Olympia.

Mr. Westland was briefed on the Avon Bypass Project, its relation to the work on downstream levee and channel improvement, addition of recreation to the Bypass, and development of upstream storage, using the cards and display charts which have been developed for other presentations. He stated that he considered the plan of development sound, the projects appeared well founded and that he was impressed with the need for these developments. He also inquired about the status of our report on reactivation of the Bypass.

**The State representatives appeared to have a mildly hostile attitude about the Bypass and were reluctant to indicate that State assistance might become available to the County in meeting the local cooperation requirements. They voiced a number of concerns such as, they had not been advised of the comprehensive nature of the planning, the information bulletins**

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were too promotional, the work should not be undertaken piecemeal, etc. As the Corps position with respect to the overall basin studies, planning and funding of the Puget Sound Comprehensive Study was revealed, some of this opposition appeared to diminish. However, there is a kernel of opposition to the Bypass at the State-legislative level and the Bypass Committee recognizes this fact. The suggestion was made that it would have been worthwhile for us to arrange a TV Program to present the total plan of the development. This proposal will be given full consideration in our future planning.

Mr. Richards said the bonding company representatives had indicated to them that the maximum County levy potential was about \$2 million. The County hopes to get the total cost of local cooperation down to \$3 million by reducing the number of bridge crossings. They are hoping that the State will find a way to finance the remaining \$1 million cost. A meeting will be held with State Highway Commission representatives on the afternoon of the 9th to determine how much assistance the Highway Department can render in the highway relocation cost.

The primary purpose of Congressman Westland's visit to Olympia is to participate in a public hearing on the Wilderness Bill on the 9th. Mr. Westland stated that the bill as presently written gives Congress the sole authority to establish wilderness preserves. Early versions of the bill had established this authority within the Executive Branch and would only have given Congress veto power within a 60-day period. Mr. Westland indicated that the present version of the bill was much more satisfactory to him and apparently was also satisfying the desires of the Wilderness Bill advocates.

Following the breakfast meeting, I met briefly with Greg Hastings and Mr. Earl Coe regarding plans for the 10 January hearing. On a preliminary and informal basis, I discussed our proposed plan of organization for the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Study with Mr. Coe. He said that he considered our plan of organization very acceptable and was firmly of the opinion that the Corps should take basic responsibility for coordination and administration of the report. He suggested that when we are ready, a letter outlining our proposals for implementing State coordination be submitted to Governor Rosellini.

GEDNEY

Gedney /s/

Skrinje RAS

Miller

Gullidge

ED-BasinPIng