

# THE COURIER-TIMES

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## HUGE SPILLWAY FOR SKAGIT RIVER PROPOSED TO PREVENT FLOODING

Closely following the recent flood, naturally comes the discussion as to whether such destructive inundations cannot be prevented and what means could be used to accomplish their prevention. Comes now County Commissioner Zig Nelson with a suggestion, which deserves serious consideration, in the opinion of many.

Mr. Nelson points out the fact that Sedro-Woolley is protected on account of the Sterling cut-off, which opens a straight course for flood waters past Sedro-Woolley, thus minimizing the danger to this community. Below the cut-off, the waters reaching the big bend in the river this side of Burlington, break out of the banks and continue on the straightest course, as the deep channel east of Burlington clearly shows.

Nelson's plan is to construct an immense spillway starting at the Sterling bend and continuing in as straight a course as possible to deep salt water, which he says is seven miles in a straight line from the bend, while the river meanders some twenty-one miles before emptying in to the Sound.

Nelson told the Courier-Times, and he was seconded by Commissioner Dick Thompson, that he believed the plan was feasible. "It would necessitate a change in the present diking laws," said Mr. Nelson. "The entire county would have to be made into one big diking or drainage district, with assessments levied according to benefits.

"My plan would be to have the county condemn a strip of land forty acres wide along the river from the cut-off to salt water, and excavate a huge spillway. This would be cemented at the intake, with piling to keep out drift, and would be arranged so that when the river rose ten feet, the surplus water would run

into the spillway, instead of waiting until it rose twenty feet and then breaking out over the country as at present. The cost of such an undertaking is not prohibitive. The money saved by stopping floods, would more than cover the interest on any bonds and allow for a sinking fund. We might be able to obtain both federal and state aid in such a project."