

Hope Still Exists For Skagit Bridge

Possibility of securing federal funds for the construction of a bridge across the Skagit river at Concrete appeared remote today, according to information received in a telegram this morning by State Senator Jess Sapp from U. S. Congressman Henry M. Jackson.

Jackson stated in his telegram that he had conferred with forestry officials on the matter of securing funds for the span but "due to limited appropriations, present prospects are not too hopeful."

However, the congressman said, a conference has been arranged between H. O. Walberg, Skagit county engineer, and U. S. Forestry officials at Portland on Thursday at which time the subject of financing the bridge construction through Forestry Service funds would be discussed.

Local backers of the project have stated that there is a possibility that the U. S. Forestry Service would be favorable to the bridge construction due to the higher return for federal timber should it be constructed.

Walberg has been in Washington, D. C. as a representative at a meeting of the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads. Following his meeting with forestry officials at Portland, he will return here.

FLOOD CONTROL JOB ON SKAGIT WILL START SOON

Announcement of the official approval of the flood control project at Burlington bend on the Skagit river came today noon from Art Garton, state director of conservation and development, who notified the Daily Herald by long distance telephone that the go ahead signal had been given for the major undertaking.

Contracts are expected to be awarded during the next 30 days on the estimated \$174,000 flood control job, he said. The work will be done under the supervision of the U. S. army engineers.

Approval of the flood control project culminates intensive and co-operative work on the part of the Skagit county board of county commissioners, dike and drainage officials, city officials and legislators. Among the latter who gave their undivided support to the project were State Senator Jess Sapp and U. S. Congressman Henry M. Jackson. Cooperation also was secured from Governor Mon C. Wallgren and other state legislators from this district.

Financed Jointly

Financing of the project is being taken care of by federal, state, county, city and diking district allocations. Following are the various allocations as announced by Garton: state, \$88,000; U. S. army engineers, \$50,000; Skagit county, \$26,000; city of Burlington, \$5,000; diking and drainage district, \$5,000.

Work to be done at Burlington bend, which is located a short distance east of the city of Burlington, includes rock revetment work with filter blanket beneath, for the entire area on the north bank of the bend which is estimated to be around 3900 feet.

That portion of the Skagit river has long been considered the most dangerous area as far as possible flood break-throughs are concerned. Already acres of valuable farm land have plunged into the river at that point in the past few years. Engineers have stated many times in the past that unless flood control work were instituted there, the city of Burlington itself could easily be completely inundated under water in case of a major flood.

Work on the Burlington bend project is to be done by the U. S. army engineers at the request of the other agencies involved. Although no estimate of the time required to do the work, it is estimated that the project will be completed by early fall.