

## Higher dikes plan hit by flood group

The Skagit County Flood Control Council is definitely opposed to building dikes any higher along the Skagit River. Lloyd Johnson, county flood control co-ordinator, said today that the group feels such action, because of the built up underlayments of sand, logs and general debris, would only mislead public trust and possibly end in a major break-through by the river at a weak point.

Following the council's planning session at the courthouse yesterday, Johnson said the organization will not endorse any one of the particular flood control plans, but will vigorously oppose the higher dikes thinking. The council met to lay plans for presentation of facts to the Army Engineers

at a public meeting scheduled for Feb. 8 at the Courthouse.

JOHNSON SAID that the Faber Dam proposal is recognized as an ideal solution to the flood control problem. However, such an undertaking would require from 300 to 400 million dollars, and the complete cooperation of people in the affected upriver area, and the sanction of the state fisheries department.

On the first requirement, Johnson said, the Army Engineers are

The Skagit continued its steady descent today, scarcely reaching the 15.4 foot mark on the Moose Hall gauge. County Engineer Frank Gilkey said that damage upriver during the high water probably will not exceed \$8,000 to county roads and one bridge. The damages were confined to washing of new roadbeds and washout of the Jordan Creek Bridge.

concerned with cost feasibility. A meeting with the fisheries department will be scheduled in the future to determine its requirements if such a dam were to become a reality.

Another plan that warrants strong consideration is the proposed spillway near Avon to the bay. Johnson said that such a channel would completely eliminate flood dangers from Sedro-Woolley south. Above that point, he felt the condition could be controlled with dikes.

THE COUNTY flood control co-ordinator pointed out that the threat of floods is hampering the Valley's economic growth. He said that it has been indicated that several large businesses have rejected sites here because of the danger. Johnson said that the Riverside Bend area which has been zoned for commercial development is very poorly protected against rising waters because the dikes are as high as practical on such shifty underfooting.