

17 Sep 63

## MEMO FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Avon Bypass, Skagit River, Washington

1. On 26 August 63 I attended a meeting at Burlington on the Avon Bypass. This meeting was called primarily by local residents who own land in the area through which the Bypass will be constructed and therefore oppose the project. At the request of the Skagit County Engineer, Mr. Lloyd Johnson, I attended the meeting to answer any questions that might arise.

## 2. Attending were:

Lloyd Johnson	Skagit County Engineer
Paul McKay	State Highway Department, Seattle
Jerry Ward	State Department of Fisheries

and about 50 local residents.

3. Primary items discussed by the opposition were that the cost of the Bypass was not justified; that this was another pork barrel Corps of Engineer project; and that project would not eliminate floods.

4. I gave a brief resume of the project history as authorized in the present basin studies, stating that we are planning the project as an element of the basin plan for the Skagit River Valley. I discussed the proposed project as well as further development by uniforming of the downstream levees and the long range development that would include upstream storage.

5. There were numerous questions raised on Bypass operation, capacity, velocities and the effects of silting of the Padilla Bay with the Bypass in operation. Some thought the Bypass should be located either upstream or downstream of the present location. There were suggestions made that complete flood control could be obtained by upstream storage and that the Bypass would not be needed.

6. Mr. Paul McKay was called upon to give the State Highway's position on the bridges. Mr. McKay stated that House Resolution No. 10 instructed the department to survey the costs of the bridge work and report back to the 1965 Legislature. He explained that the cost of the three State bridges would be about \$1,500,000, which agreed with preliminary figures of the Corps. Mr. McKay stated that if the State participated in the bridge construction, that the Federal participation with the State would be about 50%.

*file Avon Bypass - 2*  
*call*

7. Mr. Ward was called on to give his views on the needs for recreation in the Bypass. Mr. Ward stated that the State Department of Fisheries was making a study of the possibilities of adapting the Bypass to commercial fishery enhancement.

8. Mr. Noble Lee from Fir Island and Mr. Dines, one of the members on the Avon Bypass Committee, gave short talks on the needs for flood control in the Skagit River Basin. They stated that the Bypass is needed in the Skagit River Basin and eventhough some of the residents in the path of the Bypass may lose their homes, they should give consideration to the importance of the Bypass for Skagit County.

9. Before the close of the meeting, I announced that the Corps of Engineers planned a public hearing probably during early October on possible plans for levee improvement in the delta area of the Skagit River and for adding recreational facilities to the Avon Bypass. The concensus of many at the meeting was that the Bypass was very desirable eventhough some of the present landowners may be adversely affect.

R.A.S.  
SKRINDE