

Federal Funds Available For Flood Expenditures

Skagit County will vote next Tuesday, December 3, on the proposal to form a flood control district to comprise the entire county except the islands. Whether or not Skagit County will become eligible to draw upon state and federal funds for the development of a flood control district depends upon the result of that election.

Last week most of the newspapers of the county published a statement by the Skagit County Planning Council, giving its views upon the subject. So many good reasons were given why the people should vote for the proposal that we republish below the high spots of the argument as follows:

"Something must be done or the entire valley faces disaster. In the past we have tried to work single-handed. This has failed.

"The land in this valley has been reclaimed from overflow by rivers and salt water at tremendous cost. Fifty years ago the individual tried to dike and drain his land. In a few years he learned that he could not succeed alone. His neighbors joined with him and formed dike and drainage districts designed to protect and reclaim small isolated units. Neighboring farmers formed similar districts; each trying to protect its property, regardless of what happened to the adjoining district. We now have 27 independent diking and drainage units.

"Through the years they have spent over \$1,000,000.00 of the taxpayers' money for protection.

"We have recently realized, through the flood of two years ago, when over 20,000 acres was under salt water, and through the fact that each winter we now have floods from the Skagit and Samish rivers, that we must have help.

"The dikes cannot hold back the flood waters. Each year this condition is growing worse.

"The problem is not that of the farmer who owns land, but the problem of every business and every man who has investment in Skagit County because the life and continued existence of the entire community is dependent upon its solution.

"Realizing that something must be done, the last legislature passed a series of laws known as the Flood Control Legislation, which permits formation of large flood control districts practically county-wide. On December 3 the residents of the mainland of Skagit County will vote on the formation of that territory into a Flood Control District.

"The existing dike and drainage units are so small and so scattered that neither the state nor the federal government will recognize them as agencies through which to work in attacking a problem involving a whole valley or a whole river.

"Realizing that state and federal aid would be forthcoming, the legislature has set up the machinery for the creation of a district large enough to work through and