

DIKE LEADERS PUSH FOR EARLY RIVER CLEARING

Insist North Fork Cutoff, Dredging Are Flood Aids

Efforts to get the government to clear the channel of the lower north fork of the Skagit river are going to be continued even though hope for quick action was discouraged by officials who conferred in Mount Vernon Tuesday with the new Skagit River Control association.

County Commissioner Lowell Hughes said Wednesday the group expected to confer with Rep. Henry M. Jackson after the holidays.

COST COULD BE CUT

"The cost of \$125,000 which they estimated and said was too much for any emergency action could be cut and a lot of good still done before the next high water," Hughes said. "And if necessary we could chip in."

Hughes declared a dredge could cut a proposed shortcut channel for the mouth of the North Fork at not too great expense. The new channel, across the point toward Craft island, would shorten the river by about two miles, "getting flood waters out into the Sound just that much quicker," Hughes explained.

ENGINEERS MAKING REPORT

The Seattle district Corps of Engineers has investigated all requests received from Skagit county and is now writing recommendations to "higher authority," Col. E. C. Itschner, district engineer, advised The Argus yesterday.

Here for Tuesday's discussions, Col. Itschner said he believed the North Fork cutoff was of such a size that it would have to be put through as a new, rather than an emergency project, and that would take time. It would also require jetties at the mouth and regular maintenance work, he said.

MILLTOWN WORK PLANNED

Col. Itschner and Rep. Jackson said \$60,000 was being requested for emergency dike raising at Milltown and dike and road raising in the Dodge Valley vicinity.

Jackson also reported a long range flood control project costing \$40,000 was programmed for the Samish river. The diking district would contribute \$5000.