

THE COURIER-TIMES

APRIL 9, 1936

Wallgren Reports Congress More Interested in Floods

By Hon. Mon C. Wallgren

Recent disastrous Eastern floods have a double-barreled inference for state of Washington flood control proposals as well as for those in other parts of the nation.

While the recent damaging high waters have concentrated national attention on flood control needs, they have tended to shift interest from streams in various sections of the country to the specific Eastern rivers which have been in flood.

Last year the national flood control bill, which includes Washington state projects, was attacked in the senate by Eastern members. This year many of the same members, now recognizing the need for curtailing floods, want the first steps taken where the most recent floods have occurred.

Already senators have suggested the elimination of many rivers in various parts of the nation on the grounds that immediate relief is not needed. Floods should have taught these men that high waters can never be foretold and immediate need on other rivers may be evidenced at almost any time.

Pointing out that the war department has made 74 flood control investigations with only five projects undertaken, and two of these in Alaska, I contended that this was a rather futile attack on the problem, and added:

"It is my belief that we should work out a plan where the Federal government would match money in a cooperative effort with the individual states. A plan similar to the one now in effect with our road building program.

"This may be the final solution. However, I wish to call to the attention of the House the fact that we have passed a bill which now awaits senate action. Its passage would go a long way toward flood control as well as unemployment relief."

The bill now before the senate would appropriate \$5,386,000 for flood control on the Snohomish, Skagit, Nooksack and Stillaguamish rivers.
