

VOTERS WILL DECIDE ISSUE ON TUESDAY

SAFETY AND PROSPERITY OF COUNTY DEPENDS ON SOLUTION OF FLOOD PROBLEM, COUNCIL SAYS IN STATEMENT

Declaring that the safety, the prosperity and the future development of the entire valley depends upon the solution of the flood control problem, the Skagit County Planning Council today issued a final appeal for approval of the proposed flood control district in a special election to be held Tuesday of this week.

"We must recognize it (flood control) as a county-wide problem and organize ourselves into a legal unit large enough to be effective and large enough to be recognized by the state and federal government," the council's statement said.

Voters in the entire area of Skagit county east of Swinomish channel will decide on the flood control district tomorrow. Polls will open at 8 o'clock in the morning and close at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Indications point to a big vote due to intense interest taken during the last few days in the proposal to form a district. A committee of the Skagit Taxpayers association openly opposed the plan on their belief it would give the commissioners too much taxing power.

The statement of the planning council is as follows:

"We have noticed a newspaper story and a paid advertisement opposing the formation of the flood control district carried under the name of Skagit County Taxpayers' association. This, we feel, creates a most erroneous and confusing impression in that the reader is led to believe that the commissioners of the flood control district have broad taxing power, which is not true.

"Every possible safeguard was written into the statute to limit the taxing power of the commissioners of such a district. The statute forbids the directors to levy a tax beyond 2 mills on the

(Continued on Page Six)

Voters Decide

(Continued from Page One)

dollar in any year. That means the board has no power to assess in any one year more than \$2.00 on farm or other property having a valuation of \$1,000.

"Before any further tax levy can be made in any one year, the matter must be submitted to a vote of the electors and taxpayers in the entire district. In other words, we cannot be taxed more unless we actually vote such an additional tax. The power, therefore, rests with the voters and not with the commissioners of the district.

"It is true that the timber interests have been outspoken in their opposition to the formation of a district. They feel that if the district is formed they will be called upon to help pay the bill which the farmers are paying today. The planning council adopted this matter of flood control as its major objective.

"It did so because it felt that the solution of the flood problem was the most important thing confronting this valley. It felt that we have tried for 50 years to let the farmer solve this problem alone. He has failed. He will continue to fail, because it is too big. The safety, the prosperity and the future development of the entire valley depends upon its solution.

"We must, therefore, recognize it as a county-wide problem and organize ourselves into a legal unit large enough to be effective and large enough to be recognized by the state and federal government. This is the purpose for which the flood control legislation was designed. It is the purpose of the election tomorrow.

"The opponents of flood control offer nothing constructive, but merely wish to leave the situation as it is. Something must be done. Do you realize that the taxpayers, instead of paying 2 mills a year on the dollar, in various localities are paying as high as 280 mills on the dollar for flood protection? Following is a list of the levies in the 20 dike districts of the county for 1935:

Dike District Levies		Mills
No. 1	.....	15.00
No. 2	.....	60.00
No. 3	.....	24.90
No. 4	.....	9.80
No. 5	.....	30.10
No. 8	.....	103.00
No. 12	.....	19.83