

COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE ABOUT RIVER PROJECT

The Skagit County Chamber of Commerce, meeting at Burlington last night, authorized appointment of a committee to confer with the board of county commissioners relative to two phases of the Skagit river revetment program. Action was taken after Attorney Arthur Ward of Sedro-Woolley informed the group that much damage has been done to the revetment recently by log booms, and that a new \$400,000 project on the river is being held up by WPA officials until the county furnishes a dragline outfit.

These are the two phases of the project to be taken up with the commissioners. If a dragline is furnished and the \$400,000 is made available on the new project, the damaged revetments can be repaired, it was declared. In addition, work can get under way on new strategic points on the river.

Ward pointed out that \$250,000 had already been expended on the river and maintained the investment should be protected. In its application for the first project, the county agreed to maintain the project, he stated. Up until recently, before funds were exhausted, the government engineer saw that the project was maintained. No funds are available for that purpose now.

In the application for the \$400,000 project, now pending, the county agreed to provide five dragline outfits, Ward said. Work can start on the new project if the county furnishes only one dragline, he said. Cost of a dragline was estimated at \$10,000 by the attorney.

The damage done the bank revetment work near Utopia is serious and farms may be washed away if repairs are not made, according to Ward. Asked the attitude of the county commissioners, Ward said he appeared before them Monday and obtained little satisfaction.

A. G. Mosier of Sedro-Woolley said piles should be driven to protect the revetment work. He thought farmers whose land is washed away might have recourse against the county.

L. R. White, president of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, said if the river changes its course there is danger to Sedro-Woolley. He said water pipe lines running into Sedro-Woolley are also threatened unless the river is kept in its present channel. He advised watching the river above Sedro-Woolley at high water stages, saying "you can't tell what will happen."

Jack Davis, Burlington banker, said the \$250,000 already spent would be wasted unless the project is maintained. He moved that a committee of three be named to call on the county commissioners to see

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what can be done. On Ward's second, the motion was carried.

Pres. John Gould of the county group said he would announce the committee soon.