

C O P Y

SKAGIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU
R. W. Kaess, Executive Secretary
Telephone 7832
MOUNT VERNON, WASHINGTON

January 11, 1951

Senator Harry P. Cain
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We sincerely appreciate your assistance in seeking a solution to the problems involved in the threat of flood damage on the lower Skagit River.

We had a meeting with the Army Engineers on Tuesday, January 11 at which time they announced that they were letting a new contract for the completion of the levee in the Milltown area. The fact that the existing structures were removed last summer in preparation for building a new levee which was not completed was the cause of the immediate danger to the area. With this construction the immediate flood threat will be alleviated.

The second and third points mentioned in our original letter in regard to the closure of certain Sloughs and a request for their re-opening and a removal of a portion of an old jetty in that area will be investigated by the Army Engineers. The problem here affects the drainage system of almost the entire lower Skagit Valley. The Skagit River normally empties into the Sound through many outlets besides its main channel. The Engineers closed several of these outlets thus forcing more water out through the main channel which raised the low water level at the mouth of the main channel by several feet. The drainage system for the lower Skagit Valley depends on emptying its ditches at low tide with a quick runoff and holding high tide back by use of flood gates. The raised level of low water in the main Channel of the Skagit River makes this quick runoff impossible and the drainage system inoperative. We are requesting that the normal outlets of the Skagit River be allowed to operate so that the \$125,000 drainage system of the area can function.

The Army Engineers claim that they are unable to give any assistance in connection with the fourth point of our original letter which involved the raising and general improvement of the existing levee system of the lower Skagit River.

Again may I thank you for your assistance with this problem. We would appreciate your assistance further in expediting the study of the closure of the normal outlets of the Skagit River which is making the drainage system inoperative thus flooding hundreds of acres of rich farm land including fields of strawberries and seed crops now in the ground.

Very truly yours,

P 000365

/s/ R. W. Kaess

Secretary
Skagit County Farm Bureau

Incl 2

HR 821.3(Skagit River)80/1