

So I think to answer your question, that if Congress approves this \$200 million, we will be able to get other countries to contribute an equal amount or slightly more than that.

As a matter of fact, \$100 million is already promised from Japan out of the other \$200 million we need.

Mr. WIDNALL. But, Mr. Black, couldn't it be true that the United States could contribute up to 75 percent of the Mekong River project?

Mr. BLACK. Of the Mekong River project?

Mr. WIDNALL. Yes.

Mr. BLACK. Well, I think it depends on what you mean by the Mekong River project.

There are going to be a number of projects on the Mekong River. To illustrate, about 34 tributary dams have been recommended for the Mekong River.

Now, it may be that some of our friends might contribute more than half to a specific project, but the overall would still be we would not put up more than half of the money in special funds.

Mr. WIDNALL. This is what I am getting at, in the case of the Mekong River, in the overall project, as I understand it, we could contribute up to 75 percent of that entire development.

Mr. BLACK. Well, the entire development of Mekong River?

Mr. WIDNALL. The initial project.

Mr. BLACK. Well, it could be that a dam or a powerplant would be ready to be financed and that might mean \$25 or \$30 million. We might put up 75 percent of that. But if the money we put up would come out of our share of the total special funds, we wouldn't exceed half of those funds. It wouldn't necessarily be half of each particular project, but it would be within the overall amount, you see.

Mr. WIDNALL. I just wanted to have that clear for the record.

Mr. BLACK. That is right.

When you talk about Mekong projects, this is a very important thing because over the next 10 years or 15 years there are going to be some of the biggest projects in the history of the world done on the Mekong River and its tributaries.

There is one project in particular in Thailand called the Pa Mong project which is being studied very extensively now as to the feasibility with comparison to the economics of it as to atomic power and thermal power.

These studies are taking place right now and when these studies are completed, if they prove the economics of this, this one project will cost \$800 million. It will be one of the biggest power projects in the world. It will be bigger than the Grand Coulee Dam or bigger than the Aswan Dam.

So when you are talking about Mekong over the next 10 years, you are talking about big money. But these projects won't be ready for several years and this particular project I am talking about would probably take until 1980 to complete, if it is decided to go ahead with it, and that money will come from various sources, the World Bank, bilateral programs, or whatever it may be.

Mr. WIDNALL. I am bothered in my thinking about this, as to what extent we can have peaceful development of the Mekong River proceeding at a time when \$35 billion per year is being spent for leveling the cities and defoliation.