

Very truly yours,

DALE TWACHTMANN,
Executive Director.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD MEDARD, CHAIRMAN, GOVERNING BOARD, SOUTHWEST
FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, BROOKSVILLE, FLA.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Committee, I am Mr. Edward Medard, Chairman of the Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, with headquarters in Brooksville, Florida. This district is a political subdivision of the State of Florida created by Act of the Florida Legislature in 1961. The district is responsible for fulfilling the requirements of local cooperation for the project "Four River Basins, Florida." The District embraces all or part of fifteen counties; the watersheds of the Oklawaha, the Peace, the Hillsborough and the Withlacoochee Rivers and includes within its boundaries a population of 1,150,000 persons, according to the 1960 census.

At a regular board meeting on October 11, 1967, the Governing Board adopted a resolution concerning the hearings of your Sub Committee on Executive Reorganization dealing with S. 886, better known as the "Moss Bill." A copy of the Board's resolution, which was adopted by unanimous vote, is attached to this statement.

This District was organized in 1961 and has been working cooperatively with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the responsible federal agency designing and constructing the Four River Basins project. We also have had occasion to work cooperatively with the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture in certain of the small watersheds.

Since the creation of the Bureau of Reclamation in 1903 during the Theodore Roosevelt administration, there have been numerous attempts by various Secretaries of Interior to extend their control over the Nation's water resources from the seventeen Western states to the entire Continental United States. Such all out efforts were made during the Herbert Hoover administration, the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration and most recently during the Harry Truman administration. Each such effort to absorb the Civil Works program of the Corps of Engineers into the Bureau of Reclamation has failed because of the broad public support for the Civil Works program of the Corps of Engineers.

The present effort in S. 886 would make the Secretary of Interior the administrative chief of all natural resources, including air and water, by transferring into the new Department of Natural Resources the following named agencies not now a part of the Department of Interior: U.S. Forest Service; the Soil Conservation Service; Civil Functions, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; The National Oceanographic Data Center; the Sea Grant Program of the National Science Foundation and the programs of Solid Waste Disposal and Air Pollution Control now a part of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Finally,