

consent, Mr. Chairman, a letter received from Tri-County Watershed Improvement Association, Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District, Lawrence County Farm Bureau. If you do not want to incorporate them word for word in the record, I would like to file them.

Mr. TAYLOR. In the absence of objection, these letters will be made part of the file.

(The letters referred to will be found in the files of the subcommittee.)

Mr. GATHINGS. Thank you. And a resolution here, Mr. Chairman, signed by the chamber of commerce, Lions Club, Kiwanis, and Jaycees.

(The resolution referred to will be found in the files of the subcommittee.)

Mr. GATHINGS. I am grateful for the opportunity to appear this morning and will attempt to answer any questions.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Congressman, in your opinion, the majority of people in that area would be opposed to the inclusion of this part?

Mr. GATHINGS. They would, Mr. Chairman. They feel that flood control is an acute problem. I would like for you to see pictures taken in January 1966, and you can see that flood control is a major problem with that river. It has caused an awful lot of trouble to the farmers, playing havoc with their crops.

Mr. KUPFERMAN. May that be made a part of the file?

Mr. TAYLOR. In the absence of objection, these photographs will be made a part of the file.

(The photographs referred to will be found in the files of the subcommittee.)

Mr. TAYLOR. I will state I concur with my chairman, Mr. Aspinall. If you want it out, we will take it out.

Mr. KUPFERMAN. Would the chairman just allow me to say that I think what the representative of the district wants is entitled to the greatest possible weight but I still think that we should hear explanations as to why, and, therefore, I accept the fact that you have presented these explanations.

Mr. GATHINGS. Mighty fine, Mr. Kupferman. I am delighted at the opportunity to give you my observation and views.

This area here has more watershed applications than you will find in most areas. Since I have served these two counties, there has been approved—the Cooper Creek watershed is located at this point right here [indicating].

This watershed is located in the foothills of the Ozarks. That water sweeps down off of those hills and mountains and comes down into the valleys with such rapidity that children cannot get to school in many instances, and when they get to town they cannot get back home because the bridges have been washed out. So, Cooper Creek watershed was the one I recall I appeared before the Public Works Committee on urging its approval.

Since then, here is another watershed. The Fourche Creek has been submitted by the Department to Congress within the last few weeks. It is located in Randolph County and extends over into Missouri. They have the same problem because of the fact the water rushes off the mountain area into that flat country, agricultural region.