

The House and the Senate admonished the Authority with regards to the treatment of the people it dealt with in the acquisition of land. While these people are a minority in the entire Tennessee Valley, no majority of interests can justify the wrongs which this minority has suffered. The vast power of the Authority and the accumulated goodwill from past projects as well as interest in the present undertaking will not yet suffice to deprive this minority of their proper share in the American dream.

OF MICE AND MEN

The effects of displacement on white field mice was the subject of an investigation by the Authority. The effects of displacement on the people of the area will probably not be studied for some time, if at all.

CONCLUSION

The tale told by this area is a story of shameful treatment of American property owners, destruction of communities and churches, desecration of cemeteries and eradication of American Appalachian historical heritage. It is a story fraught with personal tragedy from insanity to suicide. Neither the sound of water rushing over its spillways nor the noise of its huge generating plants will insulate the Authority from the cries of these outraged Americans for justice and their share of the American dream.

REASON FOR THE INVESTIGATION BY THE ALA

In 1967 the ALA, then still the Landowners Protective Association, offered to appear in behalf of its Kentucky membership in support of a bill, S. 1637, to permit jury trial in TVA condemnation cases. The appearance of its executive director in support of landowners in the Tennessee Valley, led to an immediate increase in membership and a jump in the number of complaints received from that area. A pattern became visible with regard to certain practices used by TVA agents in the acquisition of land. These practices were clearly in defiance of the admonitions of the House and the Senate. In fact, little if anything had been done toward an effort to exercise all possible care to maintain good public relations in the land acquisition program.

Among the indications that something was, indeed, wrong with the program, we mention:

1. Joint letter of Senators Morton and Cooper of February 21, 1964, No. 6.
2. Letter of Senator Thruston B. Morton of August 10, 1965, No. 7.
3. Remarks of Senator Morton, Congressional Record appendix September 20, 1964, No. 22024.
4. Complaints of elected officials of government.
5. Complaints of citizens of unquestionable public reputation.
6. Complaints of citizen landowners.

The joint letter mentioned above stated that as laudable as the objectives of the project might be "we cannot agree that they merit the neglect of the rights of a large number of area citizens." It also stated that many of the affected citizens would be moved for the third, fourth, and fifth times due to Federal programs.