

The general clamor of area citizens for someone to tell the story of their situation, to bring the situation to the attention of the Congress, piercing through the golden curtain presented by the Authority to the Congress, led the American Landowners Association to send its executive director to the area for an 8-day preliminary investigation. The report of the executive director, following his return, convinced the board of the association that there was good reason to believe that the Authority was:

1. Acting to deny the rights of landowners in the Tennessee River drainage basin and adjoining territory;
2. Acting in defiance of the general and specific conditions of the appropriations made by the U.S. Congress; and
3. Acting to thwart its own declared intentions as stated by the Authority to the Congress and the press.

DIFFICULTIES IN CONDUCT OF THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

Many people interviewed feared reprisals; added pressure, lower appraisal values, fear of orders of immediate possession, loss of the right to their buildings, et cetera. In other cases, families were divided: one partner determined to fight the alleged injustices; the other, worn out with the fighting and the pressures and desiring only to spend the remaining years in submissive peace and place their home on a permanent foundation anywhere outside the impacted area. The question "will this get me in trouble?" was common.

The ability of the Authority to apply pressures cannot be adequately described to persons not acquainted with the situation on a firsthand basis.

Today the area reminds one of an axis-occupied Scandinavian country. The pacification methods are in many ways comparable: violence is, of course, not practiced; subtler pressures suffice. These methods deserve to be the subject of a special report. Reference is made here only to the areas where the hard-core resistance still holds out. Here the Authority has practiced general and specific harassment, cases of which are reported in the instant report.

CONDUCT OF THE INVESTIGATION

Eight days were spent in the area. Extensive interviewing took place. Documents have been collected since March 17, 1968. No unsubstantiated statements have been accepted or reported and some charges have been found to be without substance. Statements, complaints, and affidavits have been collected and are included in the appendix to this report.

CONTACTS WITH THE AUTHORITY

The executive director wrote to the Authority following his return from the area. In a letter to Chairman Wagner, Mr. Thompson stated that he had been looking into complaints of resident landowners and that he found it hard to believe that certain practices were taking place with the knowledge of the Board. While this letter was answered somewhat late due to Mr. Wagner's absence, Mr. Smith replied. Another letter was sent the Authority asking for information based on