

couraged all concerned. Hundreds of acts of courage and dedication could be cited, but time does not permit.

We are also mindful of the immediate help which was received from the President's emergency fund and the personal visits of all members of Alaska's congressional delegation and Alaska's Governor and the earliest possible efforts, after floodwaters receded, by the Corps of Engineers to restore public services, and the long hours worked by the people of the Small Business Administration to process and effectuate disaster loans for repairing homes and other buildings before the looming winter freezeup.

Mr. Chairman, up to this point I have given only a bird's-eye view of the disaster in question and the urgency of action to prevent a recurrence, and have displayed none of the special knowledge which I have attributed to my associates from Fairbanks. This is according to plan.

Mr. Chairman, all of us know that you and the other distinguished members of this committee are pressed for time, so we have promised to be brief, while covering our case within the scope of the general outline I have given. Of course, we know that the detailed and technical engineering testimony will be presented by the very fine people of the Army Corps of Engineers who have done so much for our beloved 49th State.

In closing, I wish to say that all of us are deeply appreciative of this opportunity to speak in support of flood control for Fairbanks and Fort Wainwright, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I want to say publicly that we are very grateful to this subcommittee for having convened to hear us on this particular trip. I know we did promise to be brief in order to induce the committee to come here and hear us out of order.

Thank you.

Mr. JONES. Thank you, Mr. Rivers.

Mr. Blatnik?

Mr. BLATNIK. I am glad to see the gentleman from Alaska, Mr. Rivers, has learned his lesson well, because he served with great distinction and with great respect on this committee. He certainly learned his lesson when he presents a case in less than 2 minutes flat.

It is a very fine statement, Congressman, and I want to let you know how much we appreciate you coming down here with what is so well prepared and well organized, personal presentation by the mayor and other officials and prominent citizens who have experienced this devastating flood.

We would like to have you and your witnesses know that we have detailed charts and chronological graphs and our counsel will go through this with great detail and review it.

It is a pleasure to have you back, and we congratulate you on your statement.

We look forward with interest to your personal experience and those of the members of your delegation here today.

Mr. RIVERS. Will the chairman yield to me for a moment? The closing remark that I was going to make and did not was that we were