

committee, the Bureau of Standards, and other people who have come, there has been outstanding help. There are many Alaskans who, because of the help that SBA gave, will be able to rebuild their homes and regenerate their businesses.

There are others who just decided that they had sufficient capital of their own and will tough it out. But the help we have gotten in those areas has been excellent and outstanding.

Mr. WRIGHT. One other question. The population, particularly the Indian population, seemed to be on the verge of suffering a very, very severe hunger. They are hard-wont for food and supplies. The fish they caught and things of that type were washed away in the flood. They were trying to approach this from several different directions.

How did they come through the winter?

Has there been a severe hardship on the part of those people? Have they all managed to hold on and come through this in fair shape?

Mayor BOUCHER. Yes, sir; they have. Of course, you do not experience a flood, particularly, I would say, that the outlying areas, because of the nature of the population and the economy, suffered probably an even greater amount than we did. But there was outstanding help that came from the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the U.S. Department of Agriculture food program. So, coupled with the Federal help and the State help, I think it was not a picnic, it was not a picnic for many people, but the community as a whole, and that is the native population, toughed it out and looked toward the future with hope.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say that I think this is a very worthy project, a very necessary project. I believe all of us who were there recognize the urgency of moving ahead and trying to get something corrective done and underway.

I believe in the future of the Fairbanks area. I believe in the future of Alaska. It has great resources, and not the least of them is the hardy and indomitable spirit of Alaskans, and I believe this would be money in the bank for the United States to join hands with them and try to give them this bit of very badly needed help as they struggle to build a future up there in that great Northwest.

Mr. JONES. Thank you.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I think I have already stated my admiration for this witness. You have taken the time, Mayor, to bring those pictures down here to the committee, which tend to remind all of us that did visit the area of the tremendous devastation.

I simply want to reiterate what Mr. Wright has said.

I believe you have a very, very sympathetic committee here, because we saw the facts as they existed shortly after the occurrence brought about by that great chairman I am sitting right next to. The attitude of your people makes all of us proud to be associated with the people of Alaska. I am sure you will have all possible support for your efforts in this committee.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Snyder?

Mr. SNYDER. I do not have any questions, but I would be remiss if I did not join with my colleagues in the statements they have made here today, join them in the commendations they have uttered in behalf of the "Can-do" people of the "Can-do City" with a "Can-do" mayor.