

Thank you very much.

Mayor BOUCHER. Thank you. God bless all of you.

Mr. JONES. We now have Mr. Harold Gillam, chairman, North Star Borough, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Mr. GILLAM. Before I read this testimony, I would like to thank you for the fine delegation of Mr. Wright, Mr. Snyder, and Mr. McDonald and Mr. Clausen, that went to Alaska right after the flood. They were, as Red said, they were an inspiration to all of us. I personally enjoyed renewing my acquaintance with the people.

STATEMENT OF HAROLD GILLAM, CHAIRMAN, FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Mr. GILLAM. Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee and Members of Congress.

We are certainly very appreciative of the opportunity to appear before this subcommittee on the subject of flood control which is so vital to the future growth of the Fairbanks area.

I am Harold Gillam, chairman of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

The borough is the area-wide government and as such has the responsibility of flood control. Therein, it is our responsibility to provide the lands and rights-of-way for the levee portion of this project.

This portion is estimated at a current 1967 cost of \$757,000. It will also be our responsibility to maintain and operate the levee system. This is at an estimated cost of \$64,000 annually.

I believe that the Corps of Engineers report makes a factual presentation of the flood control project, the costs and the benefits to be derived. The cost-benefit ratio is favorable as indicated in the report and all of us in this group are going to do our best to attest to the validity of the corp's report.

I do not want to reiterate material that is covered in the report for I am confident that Colonel Pick will make a very capable presentation of the report.

We are all confident in the future growth of Fairbanks in particular, and in Alaska in general. What is going to cause this growth?

The factors that I see hinge naturally on the geological position of Alaska and its relationship on the Pacific Rim, as to trade and commerce with other countries. The fact that there are known renewable natural resources such as timber, fish, and hydroelectric power that are not now being utilized anywhere close to a sustained yield basis attests to the additional trade potentials.

Alaska will be the major source of oil in the United States within just a few years. We are currently either seventh or eighth and within a year will be either fourth or fifth.

Our natural resources are present and will be found in unprecedented magnitude. Kennecott Cooper is currently exploring what may be one of the largest copper ore bodies in the North American Continent.

Pan American Oil Co. just recently filed on a large iron ore deposit of unknown size. This is only a part of Alaska, and I believe that the future looks good.