

In addition to the natural potential of Alaska in general, Fairbanks had some additional advantages other than being a trade center for a vast area.

One, it has a favorable location for viewing satellites in popular orbit. NASA has three antenna fields here and ESRO—the European Space Research Organization—has one. In addition, there is Clear, which is a major missile tracking center. It is located just 60 miles southwest of Fairbanks. This favorable location is also one of the reasons that the area was selected for an antiballistic missile site.

Two, it has lots of open country. This open country and the climate make the Fairbanks area one of the best military training centers in the world. The country teaches individual soldiers a self-reliance that cannot be achieved elsewhere. This potential is only barely being utilized by the military.

Three, it has excellent flying weather. It is also on the Great Circle route from New York to Tokyo and midway between the two major population centers of the world. When Pan American gets approval to fly this route in the near future, this will make a tremendous impact upon the economic future of Fairbanks.

Gentlemen, I review this potential with you for only one purpose, and that is to indicate that Fairbanks does have a growing future and I believe that Fairbanks has the potential of being the largest city in Alaska, but the future will never be achieved without the completion of the flood control project that is before you.

Others of this committee will testify to the seriousness of the past flood and the effect on the community that another flood would have.

I submit this flood control project is the single most important item in the growth and development of the Fairbanks area.

We urge that this project be included in the omnibus bill, that it be authorized for construction, and that sufficient moneys be appropriated to begin the project as soon as possible.

We feel so strongly the importance of this project that we have urged the Corps of Engineers to begin the preliminary planning for the location of the levee so that the borough may be able to begin the purchase of the necessary property.

I was informed that the Corps of Engineers has no funds to do this work until the project is authorized by Congress; subsequently, I offered to loan to the Corps from the borough the necessary funds. It was estimated that it would take approximately \$50,000 to do this phase. I was then informed that there was no provision for the Corps to accept our offer. If it would expedite matters any, I will renew my offer if the Congress will allow the Corps to accept it and to do the work. I believe that it is in the best interest of the public that this work be done as soon as possible, for currently I have people willing to donate or sell lands at considerably less than appraised values. Land, we know, only appreciates in value and if we delay too long not only will we lose the donated land, but we will be paying a much higher price for the land that we do acquire.

Much of the land involved in the reservoir area is in State ownership. The acquisition of this land is not part of the borough's re-