

**STATEMENT OF RALPH C. BAILEY, PRESIDENT, ALASKA NATIONAL
BANK AND FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FLOOD CONTROL
COMMITTEE, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA**

Mr. BAILEY. Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is Ralph C. Bailey, I am president of the Alaska National Bank of Fairbanks and chairman of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Committee for the Chena flood control program. I have resided at 1325 Sixth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska, for 22 years. The August 1967 Fairbanks flood damaged approximately 95 percent of the homes in the Fairbanks area including my own home which was damaged to the extent of approximately \$32,000 in addition to loss of personal items my wife and I had accumulated and come to cherish during our residence in Fairbanks.

In 1948 we experienced a flood in the Fairbanks area which was not, however, as drastic as the one of last August, but I have been interested in and worked on the Chena flood control program since that time. Our bank was one of the businesses hardest hit by the 1967 flood and was completely submerged, with all equipment destroyed. Our records were also thoroughly drenched. Our direct flood loss was approximately \$150,000, and our remodeling will cost an additional \$500,000.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Bailey, was there any warning system to make you apprehensive that the flood would occur?

Mr. BAILEY. I am sorry, I cannot hear you.

Mr. JONES. I say, did you have any warning this flood was going to occur?

Mr. BAILEY. No, we did not. I would like to say this, gentlemen, we did balance the bank after about 3 months.

Mr. JONES. You did what?

Mr. BAILEY. We balanced the bank. We found approximately \$73,000 in checks buried in about 4 feet of mud in the bottom of the building.

I would like to say at this time Congressman Pollock did come to take a good look, and I do not know whether any of the other Members came in to take a look or not.

Mr. WRIGHT. Is your bank the one that had the electronic equipment and files and things down in the basement and it got all full? We did see your bank, and, boy, it was a mess.

Mr. BAILEY. And approximately four and a half feet on the first floor also.

Mr. WRIGHT. I can imagine that the bank where I keep my overdrafts, that problem might have been a blessing in disguise. I was wondering if anyone's records or notes were lost to posterity.

Mr. BAILEY. I would like to tell the committee this, how we solved the problem of our records, and I think if the health department knew what we were going to do, we would probably have not accomplished it. We put them in cellophane bags, put them in boxes, coordinated it with Pan American, went to Seattle, picked it up by truck, sent it to a fruit dryer and we were back home within 48 hours.

Prior to the August 1967 flood, we enjoyed a healthy financial