

The following figures, I believe, are typical of the annual living costs facing an average couple in the Fairbanks area with four or more children, who are purchasing their own home.

	<i>Amount</i>
Fuel oil-----	\$1, 450. 00
Utilities, which include water, telephone, and lights-----	1, 300. 00
Garbage service-----	75. 00
Food-----	3, 300. 00
Ad valorem taxes-----	1, 200. 00
Sales tax-----	550. 00
First Mortgage house payments-----	2, 400. 00
Second Mortgage (SBA annual disaster payments)-----	1, 080. 00
Total-----	¹ 11, 355. 00

¹ This does not include clothing, medical, dental, recreational, automobile, etc., expenses because of the extreme variance between families as to the amount spent for these items, but which services and items are at the very least 33 1/3 percent higher than Seattle, Wash.

As these figures indicate, the economic burden caused by the flood is extremely painful when added on to the already high cost of living.

What concerns all families in the North Star Borough is the devastating effect that another flood would have on the community—particularly on the younger couples who can least afford a third mortgage. We all feel that such a flood will not only irreparably harm us economically but will surely snap our morale and cause a grand exodus out of this area to other parts of Alaska or to the Southern

48. Considering these factors, the most important of which are the human ones, and based upon the natural concern of all citizens of this area for the future of the community, I think it's imperative that the Federal Government authorize and fund a flood control project in the Tanana River basin area, to commence during the 1968 construction season. Another year's delay may be too late. If this project is authorized and funded, not only will the confidence of the people of this community be restored, but we may get many new residents. In addition, if the design results in the creation of related recreational facilities such as providing summer swimming, boating and other outdoor recreation facilities, this rather harsh climatic area will become even more attractive in the summer and provide an additional incentive for not only our own residents to stay but for new ones to come into the North Star Borough.

It's unfortunate that a devastating flood has to occur before positive action is taken to actually construct a flood control project, but I guess that is the nature of things in our political process of government. Possibly the Fairbanks flood of last August, as bad as it was, will accomplish much good if it results in favorably approving a flood control project and funding it, which will eliminate not only the threat of physical and economic disaster, but, more importantly, restore the confidence of each of us in the future of this community.

I want to thank the Committee for taking time out of its extremely busy schedule to hear and consider our testimony.

It is the deepest hope and wish of every person in the Greater Fairbanks area that this Committee, and finally Congress, favorably approve and take the necessary action to authorize and fund a flood control project in the Tanana River basin area to forever prevent the recurrence of the indescribably disastrous August 14th, 1967, flood.

Mr. JONES. We have next Mr. Harry Porter and Mr. Conrad Frank.

Mr. MERDES. After those two witnesses, we do not have any reason to be before the committee.

Mr. JONES. Well, we are going to have to recess for the rollcall on the floor and then we will return.

The committee will stand in recess for not longer than 30 minutes. That is the best I can make it right now.

[Short recess.]

Mr. CLAUSEN (presiding). In the interest of time, the chairman has asked me to preside; and our next witness will be Mr. Harry Porter, a member of the city council of the city of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Mr. Porter, we offer you the committee.