

to be seen even yet how many FHA homes will be defaulted. One entire area of the city is in deep FHA trouble because of the contaminated water supplies. For a real graphic picture of what we are speaking of please refer to pages 30, 31, and 32 of Senator Gruening's report to this committee. I know of no way to impart to you the hopelessness of looking into your once beautiful basement recreation room, laundry, and heating system and seeing chest deep water, 33 yards of mud, broken concrete blocks, and floating furniture and the temperature dropping to the freezing point.

Try to imagine explaining to your wife that it is still worth the fight as she gazes at every piece of clothing you own and her new carpets laying in a sodden heap on your mud covered new lawn.

I was cautioned that you wanted "meat" in these testimonies. Gentlemen, the meat is dry figures which you have in abundance. The problem is people subjected to financial disaster and loss of life. Meat is the benefit-to-cost ratios.

The problem is they are established in the case by having allowed the loss to happen once. We can only implore you to act now to minimize the exposure to this crippling loss as quickly as possible.

Action now still means asking these people, our neighbors and families, to live with this exposure another 4 years. A man once drew plans to avoid a recurrence of a flood that cost the lives of 300 people and swept away three bridges. It was ignored. Ignored until November 3, 1966, when Florence, Italy, suffered its disastrous flood. Leonardo Da Vinci's planning counted for nothing. Can't we please reduce the risk of Colonel Hardin's planning being for nought and begin by including this project in this year's bill?

I would like to point out that the money that has already been spent, as mentioned in the first paragraph, I should not say spent, but loaned by the Federal Government, is half of what it would have taken to have prevented this tragedy if we would have had this project completed at an early date.

I only call this to your attention because we feel that this project is not the one that will cost, but one that will actually effect an economy both for Alaska, Fairbanks, and the Nation, by building it now and not allowing it to happen again at some future date.

It is a shame that this cost-to-benefit ratio in this instance had to be established by allowing it to happen.

I certainly hope that Congress will see fit to act quickly, that it may not happen again.

One other comment only and I will relinquish the chair to Mr. Conrad Frank.

I think the Corps of Engineers deserves a particular vote of thanks. I had become quite cynical about the Federal Government or any department of the Federal Government ever moving with any haste, and yet, within 1 week, we saw the Corps of Engineers, Colonel Pick himself was there, Colonel Hardin put into motion contracts and actions that allowed us to become almost completely whole as far as the necessities were concerned before our early freeze-up.

I gained an immense respect for these gentlemen and their ability to do this and for the ability of our Federal Government when the need is an emergency and necessary to move and be of help to their people