

and to this particular committee for their action in being there, not after the fact but during the fact.

Our sincere appreciation to all of you gentlemen.

Mr. CLAUSEN. We appreciate your comments, and also the fact that you have made these observations with respect to the responsiveness of the Corps of Engineers and, of course, we are particularly pleased to have these comments coming from the elected official, such as yourself, who do speak on behalf of our own constituency in expressing your concern and hope that this project will be advanced.

Also, as you know, this particular committee does take a certain amount of pride in the fact that we have made a great deal of progress in the field of disaster legislation.

We have gone into this in depth, and when we can see the agencies of the Federal Government responding to the request once made, in implementing that which we have performed legislatively, we are equally pleased to have your kind of response that it is being carried out.

Thank you very much.

The next witness will be Mr. Conrad Frank, chairman, municipal utilities board, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Nice to have you before the committee, sir.

STATEMENT OF CONRAD FRANK, CHAIRMAN, MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BOARD, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Mr. FRANK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CLAUSEN. You may proceed with your statement.

Mr. FRANK. My name is Conrad Frank, professional engineer and general contractor, and I am presently chairman of the Fairbanks Municipal Utilities Board.

On August 14, 1967, my home was flooded and severely damaged. I like to think of myself and my family as being quite stable emotionally, but when we were airlifted out to Eielson Air Force Base and looked back down on our poor submerged city, there were tears in everyone's eyes.

This bipartisan group before you represents well over 200 years of Fairbanks residency and over 120 years of active service to the community.

We are vitally concerned for the future of the Fairbanks area. We shared the tribulations of our neighbors through the ravages of the flood and the tremendous task of cleaning up. Now we stand together to help secure the future of our community by urging authorization of the Fairbanks flood control project.

The plant, property, and equipment of the municipal utilities system is worth approximately \$25 million. Through amazing good fortune and the hard work of our employees and others the powerplant and water system were kept operating and the losses to those utilities were not heavy. The telephone system, however, was severely damaged and there was a heavy cost both to the office of emergency planning and to the system itself.

The municipal utilities system should be making rather extensive additions to all of its utilities. The water system should be extended