

River of the North. The streams drain areas of 222 and 159 square miles in west-central Minnesota.

This is comparatively level country, and flooding along the South Branch and Felton Ditch occurs regularly not only during spring snowmelt periods, but also frequently during intense summer rainfall. The extent of the area flooded is estimated at about 121,000 acres.

The land affected is primarily agricultural, with 95 percent of it cultivated. The area soils hold a high productivity potential. However, spring flooding has frequently delayed planting or eliminated it entirely, at a great loss to the farmers. Even during the growing season, the crops are constantly threatened with flash floods. The report submitted by the Secretary of the Army (H. Doc. 98, 90th Cong., first sess.) estimates annual crop losses in excess of a quarter of a million dollars. Other agricultural losses were estimated at \$38,600 a year and road and bridge damage at \$5,400.

I have personally visited this area and can attest to the widespread flooding each year. I have a series of pictures in my files that further tell the tragic story of helplessness as flood waters spread for miles over rich cropland, with the farmers unable to stem the tide with local efforts. They desperately need our support and assistance if this cropland is to be preserved for future use and productivity.

No flood control projects have been constructed by the Corps of Engineers in the South Branch or Felton Ditch watersheds. What is requested now is an authorization to make channel enlargements and other improvements to facilitate the flow of waters, eliminating to a great extent the flood potential for the area.

The Corps of Engineers found the overall program to be economically feasible and to be compatible with any comprehensive plan that may be developed later for the Red River of the North basin.

The first costs of the proposed improvements are estimated at \$1,452,000, of which \$1,230,000 would be Federal and \$222,000 non-Federal for rights-of-way and relocations. The annual charges would be \$63,000, including \$5,500 for non-Federal maintenance. Average annual benefits are estimated at \$271,500, providing a benefit-cost ratio of 4.3, which is certainly excellent.

In addition to the Federal participation, local interests will contribute an additional \$1,488,000 for auxiliary lateral and on-farm works. Total annual charges, including local participation, would be \$135,400, with average total annual benefits of \$643,400. When this local participation is added into the benefits and costs, the ratio rises to 4.8.

With such a favorable benefit-cost ratio, and faced with the obvious condition of regular annual flooding in the area, it is respectfully requested that the South Branch Wild Rice River-Felton Ditch flood control project be favorably recommended and authorized by this subcommittee and the whole House Committee on Public Works.

Colonel ANDERSON. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this report concerns improvement of the south branch of Wild Rice River and Felton ditch, in northwest Minnesota near the North Dakota border, in the interest of flood control. It is in partial response to several congressional resolutions calling for surveys on the Red River on the north basin.

The flood plain includes about 120,000 acres of agricultural lands and two small communities. Flooding occurs regularly during spring