

I have personally toured that area on a number of occasions and can attest to the flood problem that exists now and has existed for many years. Average annual flood damage comes to about half a million dollars in the Wild Rice and Marsh River Basins, and average annual crop damages along the Red River of the North from the mouth of the Wild Rice River to the international boundary are estimated at about \$1½ million and urban damages to the city of Grand Forks at \$710,000. The dam near Twin Valley would alleviate both problems. The damsite is in an ideal location. The reservoir to be created behind the damsite is of utterly rough and waste lands. Not only will it serve for flood control, but would be an ideal body of water for fishing, recreation, and a natural habitat for waterfowl.

The first study of the problems connected with flooding along the Wild Rice and Marsh Rivers was back in 1911, following the disastrous flood of 1909. Local interests have worked diligently through the years to protect their farmlands and communities. But it is a losing battle unless we act on the national level to conserve these valuable natural resources. They have waited a long time, and are certainly now deserving of our attention.

It is hoped that the committee concurs with the findings of the Corps of Engineers and will approve recommended construction of a dam and reservoir on the Wild Rice River for flood control, general recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement. Approval at this stage is certainly warranted and would serve as encouragement to the people of western Norman and Clay Counties who are looking for hopeful signs that we will eventually join with them in their struggle against the unpredictable ways of nature.

Mr. JONES. Next we have the State Road and Ebner Coulees, Wis.

STATE ROAD AND EBNER COULEES, WIS.

Colonel ANDERSON. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this report concerns improvement of State Road and Ebner Coulees through the city of La Crosse and Shelby Township, western Wisconsin, in the interest of flood control. It is in partial response to a resolution by the House Public Works Committee.

The lower reaches of both coulees flow through primarily residential areas into the Mississippi River Basin. Because of the recent suburban development of the area, potentially serious flood problems have existed only during the past several years. It is estimated that a 25-year discharge frequency flood would cause \$1,452,000 damages in 1970. There are no existing projects in the basins. Local interests desire improvements to prevent flood damages.

The Chief of Engineers in his proposed report recommends channel improvements and diversion works, and construction, relocation, and modification of bridges. Total cost is estimated at \$7,359,000 of which \$6,849,000 would be Federal. The benefit-cost ratio is 1.4.

The report has been submitted to the State of Wisconsin and the interested Federal agencies. Upon receipt of the comments, the report of the Chief of Engineers will be sent to the Bureau of the Budget through the Secretary of the Army prior to its submission to Congress by the Secretary of the Army.

This concludes my statement, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. JONES. Any questions?