During the flood of 1965 people from all over the area and especially youth in large numbers volunteered to fill sandbags, work with the homeless, rebuild temporary dikes, and otherwise help with emergency efforts, but despite all this, the expense to private individuals and business as well as to municipal and State government was staggering. I have worked with many of the officials of these communities as they seek to come out from under the financial loan imposed by these two recent floods, and I know the difficulties they have faced.

But though the spirit and willingness to work to alleviate damage is great, temporary and excessively costly measures taken at the time of flood disaster and threat are not the real solution to the problem for these communities. The floods come too often and the damage is too severe for stop-gap measures to be sufficient. According to the study of the Corps of Engineers, the average annual flood damage of the three communities we consider today is:

Fulton, $169,000 (1960 population: 3,387).
East Moline, $442,400 (1960 population: 16,732).
Milan, $145,400 (1960 population: 3,065).

For communities of relatively small size, these figures represent a severe loss.

This is why I believe that the project recommendations of the Corps of Engineers are needed and are economically justified and why I testify on behalf of their authorization. There are several Federal programs in the area of the study before us, but none have been located in the cities in the Corps study.

The Corps recommendations would do the following things:

(*a*) For Fulton, at a Federal cost of $4,470,000 with a non-Federal share of $650,000 and a benefit-cost ratio of 1.1, there would be about 12 miles of earth levees, railroad raises, road ramps, closure structures, gravity drainage outlets, ponding areas, storm sewer interceptors, and pumping plants. The plan would also protect the rural area in the Cat Tail Drainage District so as to provide access for Fulton to high ground. (The Cat Tail District suffers an additional $70,100 in average annual flood damages.)

(*b*) For East Moline at a Federal cost of $4,270,000 and a non-Federal share of $250,000, and a benefit-cost ratio of 1.4, the plan would authorize about 2.4 miles of levee, railroad raises, street raises, a closure structure, gravity drainage outlets, open ditches, ponding areas, and pumping plants.

(*c*) For Milan, at a Federal cost of $1,210,000 and non-Federal share of $275,000 and a benefit-cost ratio of 1.9, the protection plan would be composed of about 5 miles of earth levee and closure structures to protect against direct flooding from the Rock River and Mill Creek and against backwater flooding from the Mississippi. These all converge near Milan, and all cause serious trouble to the community. The plan would also provide for gravity drainage outlets, ditches, ponding areas, and a pumping plant.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that these projects will go a long way in protecting the communities involved thereby serving the welfare of the people. This committee has long recognized the value of multipurpose flood projects such as these which can mean so much in the prevention of damages and loss of life. It is my hope that the needs of this flood plan will continue to be recognized and that eventually the threat of flood damage can be removed. The projects under consideration today are a significant step toward that goal.