

1964. In 1966, the Corps of Engineers and Soil Conservation Service formulated their respective plans into a unified plan which consisted of a system of dams and reservoirs on the tributaries upstream from the urbanized areas to provide an adequate degree of flood protection. The proposed plan for improvement was presented to local interests at a public hearing at Omaha on July 7, 1966.

The great bulk of the testimony presented by the public during the July hearing was favorable to the Corps' plan. I believe that situation still exists today. Most of the people living in the Papillion Basin favor the plan proposed by the Corps of Engineers for the construction of dams and reservoirs to protect the valley from additional serious flooding.

The District Engineer's final report was submitted to the Missouri River Division Engineers on February 14, 1967, who concurred in the recommendations and released the public notice concerning the report on April 27, 1967. The Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors approved the report on September 6, 1967, and subsequent comments from the State of Nebraska and interested Federal agencies were favorable. More recently the report has been reviewed by the Office of the Secretary of the Army and the Bureau of the Budget, and the Senate Subcommittee on Flood Control, Rivers and Harbors held hearings on the report on May 22.

DANGERS TO CITIZENS

Earlier in my testimony I stated that I would like to discuss the 1964 flood at greater length.

I believe the suddenness of that flood which struck the Papillion Creek Basin on June 16 of that year clearly illustrates the dangers still facing the homeowners, businessmen, and farmers living in the area.

The estimated property damages from that tragic flood came to almost \$5 million and in addition seven human lives were lost. I believe the high economic and human loss was a result of the rapid urbanization of the Papillion Creek Basin and the tendency in the Papillion runoff system towards unpredictable flash flooding.

These rapid runoff conditions which existed during the 1964 flood are still present and represent an even greater threat today to the lives and property of the people of the basin. During my preparation for the Senate hearing, I asked the Corps of Engineers to estimate how much damage a flood the size of the 1964 flood would inflict today.

The Office of the Chief of Engineers in Washington estimated that under existing conditions of economic development of the basin area, a recurrence of the 1964 flood would cause damages in excess of the \$5 million recorded in 1964. Approximately 550 homes and 135 businesses would be flooded or swept away. Obviously the threat to human life is increasing rapidly.

STANDARD PROJECT FLOOD

In preparing my testimony, I also requested that the corps estimate the damage potential of what their report referred to as a "Standard Project Flood." Their reply indicated that under present-day conditions a flood of this nature could cause damages of over \$11 million. The flood would cover 16,000 acres of land and cause damage to 750 homes,