

220 businesses, public and private utilities, transportation facilities and farms.

Mr. Chairman, the report of the Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service states that the system they recommend of 21 dams and reservoirs would reduce the flood damages potential by over 80 percent under existing conditions and by almost 90 percent under future conditions.

As a boy who grew up along the banks of the Papillion Creek and a former mayor of the city of Omaha, I have both a personal and professional interest in this problem and its solution, and I am convinced that the Corps of Engineers' plan will do the job. I hope and pray that this committee will see fit to recommend this project for consideration as part of the 1968 omnibus rivers and harbors, and flood control bills.

Mr. Chairman, three men who have worked hard in support of a feasible flood control plan for the Papillion Creek Basin have asked that I introduce their testimony to this subcommittee for your consideration.

With your permission I would like to submit for the record the testimony of Warren D. Fairchild, the executive secretary of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and Milton H. Fricke, chairman of the Papio Watershed Board and John W. Neuberger, general manager of the Watershed Board.

(Testimony is as follows:)

STATEMENT PRESENTED BY WARREN D. FAIRCHILD, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PAPILLION CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES, NEBRASKA (U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS)

Chairman Robert E. Jones and Members of the U.S. House Flood Control Subcommittee, this is a joint statement on behalf of the Honorable Norbert T. Tiemann, Governor of the State of Nebraska, and the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Commission. This statement is to indicate the strongest possible endorsement and approval by the state government of Nebraska for the U.S.C.E. Report on Papillion Creek and its tributaries. We in Nebraska think this project is one of the most urgently needed civil works in the entire Missouri Basin.

The need for this flood control project for the Papillion Creek Basin, which includes metropolitan Omaha, Nebraska, has existed for many years. In the last decade, it has become particularly important due to rapid urban growth of Omaha and neighboring satellite communities. The strategic position of Omaha as a gateway to the Midwest has been greatly benefited by the development of navigation on the Missouri River. As a terminal for highway, rail and water borne commerce and as a banking and service center for a several-state area, Omaha has become a rapidly growing metropolitan area. This population growth has resulted in accelerated residential and industrial occupation of the Papillion Basin. This project also gives needed flood protection to Offutt Air Force Base—Headquarters of the Strategic Air Command. For this reason, this project has definite national significance with an unusual associated national emergency. The danger to life as well as the property damage from flooding has increased steadily along with this development.

The flood of 1964, in which some seven persons lost their lives and over five million dollars of property was damaged, documents the great risk of living by this uncontrolled stream.

In the summer and fall of 1964 resolutions were adopted by the Senate Committee on Public Works and the House Committee on Public Works requesting a thorough investigation of the need for flood control in this area. Needless to say, the State of Nebraska as well as the local governing bodies and the general populous in the Omaha area strongly supported these resolutions. This support has continued to the present day.

The federal cooperation in planning this project has been exemplary. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service have developed plans which mesh technically, which are acceptable to the local people, and which we feel will provide a permanent solution to the problem. The counter-