

\$1,000,000 in local funds have been appropriated by Washington, Douglas, and Sarpy Counties to coordinate, accelerate planning, and share in the cost of State or Federal development programs.

SUPPORTING WATERSHED PROJECTS

A significant comprehensive land and water resource development program is now under way in the Papio Basin. Soil and Water Conservation Districts in each county are accelerating their land treatment programs with farmers and property owners. Sediment control programs for urban property owners and developers have been initiated. Upon the request of the Papio Watershed Board, Floodplain Information Reports on the Papio Creek floodplain land are being developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Cities and counties involved are now adopting or improving upon existing ordinances and regulations on the use of open land in the flood-hazard areas.

The Soil Conservation Service's study of land treatment and grade stabilization needs in the tributaries proceeded concurrent with the main-stream studies of the Corps of Engineers.

Exceedingly close coordination has been maintained between the Corps and the Soil Conservation Service as well as the other State and Local agencies involved. The now-authorized Soil Conservation Service, Erosion Control Plan calls for 52 grade stabilization structures and land treatment measures throughout the Basin. The total cost for the erosion control project is approximately \$3.8 million. Currently this well-justified project is held up in the Bureau of the Budget pending the outcome of the "Committee Veto" stalemate between your colleagues and the Administration.

Recently the Douglas and Carpy County Governing Boards authorized the Papio Watershed Board to carry out a channel maintenance program downstream from the dam sites, so that the main channels will be kept free of obstructions and available to handle water releases from the reservoirs and flows that originate downstream from the dams. These and other locally administered projects will complement and further enhance the flood control capability of the reservoir project.

IN SUMMARY

We feel that the system of 21 flood storage reservoirs is most essential to filling a serious gap in flood control, water quality, and recreational usage for our rapidly urbanizing region. We ask your earnest consideration for authorization in order that design and land acquisition for the reservoir sites can begin at the earliest possible date. We appreciate this opportunity to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Public Works recommendation before your Committee.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Also, Mr. Chairman, an overwhelming majority of the people of the Second Congressional District of Nebraska are in favor of the construction of the Papillion Basin flood control project as recommended by the Chief of Army Engineers.

Interested community leaders have recently sent me letters in support of the plan and with the permission of the subcommittee I would like to have the letters included in the record of this hearing. The letters are from the following people:

H. F. Jacobberger, president of the Omaha City Council.

J. A. Mactier and Dean A. Raber of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

Harold A. Smock of the Greater Bellevue Area Chamber of Commerce.

John F. Davis, chairman of the First National Bank of Omaha.

STATEMENT OF THE OMAHA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FLOOD CONTROL, HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE, JUNE 18, 1968

Re Papillion Creek project.

The Omaha Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges the House to authorize the plan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct a series of twenty-one dams and reservoirs in the Papillion Creek basin. This project has resulted from a comprehensive study by the Corps, of Papillion Creek and its tributaries.

Papillion Creek is a constant flood threat to the city of Omaha and the sur-