

rounding area. In past years, disastrous floods have occurred, resulting in loss of life and extensive property damage. One of the more recent floods in June, 1964, caused nearly \$5 million in property damages and the loss of seven lives. Under existing conditions, average annual flood damages are about \$½ million.

The Corps of Engineers' plan would provide a high degree of urgently needed flood protection to the Omaha metropolitan complex, the rural areas in the immediate vicinity, as well as the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base. It has been estimated that the twenty-one proposed dams will achieve an 85 percent reduction in annual flood damages.

Local organizations have been attempting to control floods in the basin for nearly 35 years but the program proposed by the Corps of Engineers offers permanent solutions to flooding problems. We believe the Corps' plan has the unanimous support of local organizations at this time. We urge that the project be authorized now so that it can be implemented before urban developments spread to strategic areas rendering the plan unfeasible.

We therefore strongly recommend that the project be authorized by this Subcommittee, with ultimate approval by the Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. MACTIER, *President.*
DEAN A. RABER, *Chairman-Papio Committee.*

OMAHA CITY COUNCIL,
Omaha, Nebr., June 17, 1968.

HON. ROBERT E. JONES,
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Flood Control,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JONES: The Omaha City Council wishes to take this opportunity to urge your Committee to grant early authorization of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' recommended Papillion Creek Basin flood control plan during 1968.

A serious flooding threat to life as well as property damage has steadily increased along the Papillion Creeks and their tributaries. The need for this reservoir flood control project for the Papillion Creek Basin, which includes over two-thirds of the Omaha metropolitan area, has existed for many years. A coordinated basinwide solution to such flood problems has exceeded the ability for local government to solve. Over-bank flows have occurred through Omaha's city limits five out of the past eight years causing millions of dollars in property damage, loss of countless man-hours, and already the loss of seven lives. This project also gives needed flood protection to Offutt Air Force Base, Headquarters of the nation's Strategic Air Command.

In addition, the proposed plan of improvement by the Corps of Engineers would provide our rapidly growing community with desperately needed areas for water-based recreational opportunities as well as providing enhancement for the streams below the reservoir sites through low-flow augmentation.

We feel that the local people, the Papio Watershed Board, the sponsoring County Governing Boards, and the state of Nebraska, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have admirably carried out their part in development of a multipurpose project for flood control. We hope you will give your early approval to this project.

Respectfully yours,

OMAHA CITY COUNCIL,
H. F. JACOBBERGER,
President.

GREATER BELLEVUE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bellevue, Nebr., June 10, 1968.

To Chairman and Members of the House Committee on Flood Control:

DEAR SIR: The Greater Bellevue Area Chamber of Commerce urges that you give strong consideration to the Corps of Engineers plan for dams and reservoirs in the Papio Creek Basin.

The continuous threat to life and property in the Papio Basin is tremendous.

The flooding problem in the past has demonstrated the need for a program that covers the entire basin. Sarpy County, being on the lower end of the drainage area, has suffered for a number of years and without a program such as the