

Annual benefits accruing to the project are estimated at \$131,700, and the annual charges are estimated to be \$95,600, resulting in a benefit-cost ratio of 1.4.

Comments from the State of Iowa and Federal agencies are favorable. The Bureau of the Budget has no objection to submission of the report to Congress.

The estimated Federal cost of the recommended work is less than \$10 million and therefore, the views set forth in the Secretary of the Army's letter of January 6, 1967, apply to this project.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement.

Mr. JONES. We will now hear from our colleague, the Honorable William J. Scherle, of Iowa, on this project.

**STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM J. SCHERLE, A REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF IOWA**

Mr. SCHERLE. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before your subcommittee for the purpose of urging your adoption of an authorization for the David's Creek Dam, or the Nishnabotna River, vicinity of Exira, Iowa, as it is called in House Document No. 142, 90th Congress, first session.

On July 1 and 2, of 1958, Exira, Iowa, and the Nishnabotna River Basin below experienced a devastating flood—taking the lives of 19 persons, and destroying crops and property to the extent of \$5,682,700. All but \$278,000 of this damage was caused by the East Nishnabotna River.

The community of Exira suffered most severely—experiencing the loss of nine lives, the complete destruction of 25 homes, with 30 heavily damaged. Seventeen business establishments incurred heavy damage, and three buildings were totally destroyed. Exira alone experienced property damage in the amount of \$648,000.

However, the 1958 floods, although the most destructive, were not an isolated act of nature. The Nishnabotna River Valley has been experiencing flood damage in the amount of \$68,000 annually, with Exira's annual share being nearly \$20,000.

Southwest Iowans feel that something must be done to bring this situation under control. With this, the Corps of Engineers, the Iowa Conservation Commission, the Iowa Highway Commission, the department of health, the Iowa Natural Resources Council, the Iowa House and Senate, and all interested Federal departments and agencies wholeheartedly concur.

As the first major step in the solution of this problem, Congress has been asked to approve the construction of a dam and reservoir on David's Creek—one-half mile northeast of Exira. The proposed dam would be an earth-fill structure, 62 feet in height, with a crest length of 1,800 feet, and a 25-foot topside width.

The accompanying reservoir would create a lake of approximately 600 acres—providing for adequate fishing, boating, swimming, water skiing—and most important—it would provide a reservoir capable of holding or storing twice the amount of water released at the time of the 1958 flood.

We regard the David's Creek Dam and Reservoir project as a key element in the entire Nishnabotna River Valley flood control program.