

Comments of the State of California and Federal agencies are favorable. The Bureau of the Budget notes that the project annual benefits would not equal the average annual costs of the project for 30 years, and would expect the Chief of Engineers, prior to requesting construction appropriations, to review the timing of initiation of the project.

Subject to consideration of this comment, the Bureau of the Budget has no objection to submission of the report to the Congress.

The Secretary of the Army states that the Chief of Engineers will review the timing of initiation of the project prior to requesting appropriation of funds for construction.

This concludes my statement, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Johnson.

STATEMENT OF HON. HAROLD T. (BIZZ) JOHNSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, as one who has served for his entire congressional career as a member of this subcommittee, I want to express the appreciation of the people of California and the Second Congressional District for the fine recognition which you and this committee has given to us in the past decade. As a result of the far-sighted actions by this committee and the Congress of the United States, we have proceeded with a sound program of flood control that has been very beneficial to the people of all parts of the State of California.

Today, I come before you advocating the authorization of one new project in the Second Congressional District, the continuation of two other projects in the district and, of course, the other projects which we have before you in the State of California.

The one new project with which I am directly concerned is on the Feather River near the Plumas County community of Chester. This is a project in which we have been interested for quite some time. You will recall that, originally, this committee requested by resolution a review of flood conditions near Chester. Shortly after I came to Congress, I initiated action to fund this review and I am pleased that this comprehensive study now has been completed and the Corps of Engineers has developed a means by which we can prevent floods which have caused heavy damage in the community on several occasions.

You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that the study was ordered by this committee as an aftermath of disastrous floods in December of 1955 which hit this and other areas of northern California. Since that time, we have had heavy flood conditions in October of 1962, February of 1963, and again, in December of 1964, when the extreme flooding conditions seen in 1955 were repeated.

Here in Chester, we have already invested quite heavily in emergency flood repair and corrective work, and now I believe that it is time to develop a project that will prevent floods rather than to continue patching up the damage.

The north fork of the Feather River drains a 115-square-mile area above the community of Chester. This, to a large degree, is high mountain country in the Sierra Nevada, with elevations ranging from