

In addition, over the years, local interests have constructed a variety of flood control improvements within the project area.

The Chief of Engineers recommends the enlargement and cleanout of 105 miles of existing channels and the installation of a 700 c.f.s. pumping station. The improvements in Pemiscot County, Mo. and Mississippi County, Ark., are individually justified, not interdependent and thus may be undertaken separately if need be.

The Chief of Engineers notes that some local interests downstream from the recommended improvements believe the works would tend to impede drainage from their lands. After further consideration, he is satisfied that the recommended plan will have no significant adverse effect on existing developments and that it offers a desirable solution to the present flood problem. However, this does not preclude further consideration of drainage problems should future development indicate that additional improvements are desirable.

The Chief of Engineers, after full consideration of the Mississippi River Commission's report, and supplemental information furnished by local interests, concurs with the Commission and recommends that the existing project for flood control and improvement of the lower Mississippi River adopted by the Flood Control Act of May 15, 1928, as amended, be modified to provide for the construction of additional improvements in the St. Francis Basin, substantially in accordance with the plan outlined at an estimated additional cost to the United States of \$2,213,000 for the Belle Fountain Ditch and tributaries, and \$2,425,000 for Drainage District No. 17, subject to the conditions set forth in the Commission's report. Local interests have indicated a willingness to meet these requirements of local cooperation.

The Secretary, in a draft transmittal letter expresses the view that the cost-sharing policy for local flood control improvements which is followed elsewhere in the United States should also be applied to new authorizations for such improvements in the St. Francis Basin. He recommended that local interests be required to bear the cost of lands, easements, and rights-of-way, relocations and maintenance, as customarily prescribed for local flood control improvements elsewhere in the country.

Authorization on this basis would decrease the initial Federal cost by \$1,692,000 and the annual cost of maintenance by \$40,500.

The Bureau of the Budget endorses the views of the Secretary of the Army that the cost-sharing policy for local flood control improvements which is followed elsewhere in the United States also be applied in the St. Francis Basin and so expresses in the letter of June 4.

Comments from the States of Missouri and Arkansas and other Federal agencies are favorable.

The total estimated Federal cost based on the Chief of Engineers recommendation, is \$4,638,000. Annual benefits are estimated at \$653,000, and annual costs of \$206,400, giving a benefit-cost ratio of 3.2.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement.

Mr. JOHNSON. Are there any questions?

Mr. CLAUSEN. Colonel Hall, when you make reference to this recommendation by the Secretary of the Army that the cost-sharing policy of the local flood control improvements which is followed elsewhere in the United States, can you elaborate on this just briefly?

Are you saying that this project initially was recommended that