

in these runways there. It is now a big SAC base so as a result of the runway construction and the high ground to start with, ditches all over the area have flooded this very fine farmland and also played havoc with drainage in the city of Blytheville. This project would alleviate that serious situation.

Mr. JOHNSON. Any questions of the gentleman from Arkansas?

The gentleman from Iowa, Mr. Schwengel.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I have no questions but I want to comment on the gentleman's contribution to the Congress. He and I have been friends ever since I have been here. The first morning I was with you in a meeting and I have admired you ever since. You are a great public servant.

I understand you are retiring and I certainly hope from time to time you can find an excuse to come back here and let us have the benefit of your fellowship.

Mr. GATHINGS. Thank you, Mr. Schwengel. It has been a real privilege to work with you.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that the St. Francis project is set down early this morning and I have a statement that I would like to submit or I could come back when you do reach that particular project.

Mr. JOHNSON. If you wish to leave the statement with us we will put it in its proper place.

Mr. GATHINGS. I do appreciate it. I have a statement of Mr. W. M. Smith, Jr., who is the president of the board of directors of the St. Francis Levee District of Arkansas. (See p. 178 for statement of Mr. W. M. Smith.)

Mr. CLAUSEN. I will ask unanimous consent that the request of Mr. Gathings be accepted.

Mr. JOHNSON. You heard the motion of the gentleman from California. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GATHINGS. Thank you kindly, gentlemen. It has been a real pleasure to appear this morning and I am most grateful for the committee's kindness shown to our people.

Mr. JOHNSON. The next project we will hear about will be Lake Chicot, Ark.

LAKE CHICOT, ARK.

Colonel HALL. Mr. Chairman, this presentation briefs a report which concerns a problem in the area served by the Boeuf and Tensas Rivers and Bayou Macon Basin project, a feature of the overall plan of flood control for the Mississippi River and tributaries.

Lake Chicot is located in the extreme southeast corner of Arkansas across the Mississippi River from Greenville, Miss.

Lake Chicot provides recreation and fish and wildlife opportunities to an area which includes 11 counties in Arkansas and Mississippi and three parishes in Louisiana.

As a result of the flood control improvement work in the Boeuf and Tensas Rivers and Bayou Macon Basin and the changed land use resulting therefrom, the inflows to Lake Chicot have become increasingly turbid from fine silts.

Turbid conditions in the lake which start in the early spring and continue through most of the recreation season have rendered the lake almost useless for water oriented recreation.