

I am interested in helping you to restore it, but I am also interested in preventing erosion.

Mr. PRYOR. Fine.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I hope you will see your interest is to do what you can to encourage the watershed development in those areas and indeed, to improve and upgrade the laws and it will help encourage people at the local level to do more especially on the farms where they can farm around the hills and do the many things themselves and then there are things we need to do cooperatively in developing the watershed so this thing does not happen again.

I am interested in your testimony and I will be reading with avid interest your entire statement in the record.

Mr. PRYOR. I certainly thank the gentleman from Iowa and I would like to point out at this point that I feel sure, in fact, I can speak from personal experience that the people of Lake Village and this whole Lake Chicot region share in the gentleman's concern over watershed distribution and over the importance of our watershed program.

We have a splendid group who are interested in this now who are pushing in this area and who hope to mobilize their efforts into pursuing this course of action that the gentleman from Iowa has so accurately pointed out.

Mr. JOHNSON. The gentleman from California, Mr. Clausen.

Mr. CLAUSEN. What is the size of the community of Lake Village? area.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Is that during the whole year?

Mr. PRYOR. Yes. I would say it is a relatively stable population here and 4,000 I would think would be roughly the population. If I am wrong, I would like the opportunity to correct that information for the record. I think 4,000, Mr. Clausen is the population of Lake Village. This is the city limits I should say.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I would be interested in your personal comments on the comments of the Bureau of the Budget wherein they state that the Bureau of the Budget does not believe that the full Federal responsibility for the damages have been clearly established. The Bureau questions whether the Federal Government should be held fully responsible for damages resulting from a change in the Nation's economy more than 20 years after the original plan of approval was authorized.

I would like to have your reaction to those Bureau comments.

Mr. PRYOR. Sir, on that point I do not know. We are dealing with expert testimony here I assume on both sides. I am sure that we are and I will take that into consideration. It is my own opinion that whether the damages were caused or whether they were, let us say, accentuated because of a lack of foresight by the Federal Government or the State or the local people, I, myself, cannot address myself to those remarks.

All I do know is that the situation is now existing, it is certainly deplorable in the sight of those people there. They have worked for many years to help in the restoration of this area. They have come to Washington on many occasions now and that is the main interest there and we feel and we are very humbly asking for the Federal Government to help us in this area.