

ST. FRANCIS BASIN, ARK. AND MO.

Colonel Hall, you may proceed.

Colonel HALL. Mr. Chairman, this presentation concerns the report which is a review of the local cooperation requirements for flood control improvements in the St. Francis Basin authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1965.

This report is submitted in response to the directive contained in section 204 of Public Law 89-298 which states in part, under the title "Lower Mississippi River Basin—Comprehensive Plan," as follows:

* * * the requirement of local cooperation for the improvements in the St. Francis Basin, Arkansas and Missouri, shall be reviewed by the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, with particular reference to Federal and non-Federal cost-sharing, and he shall report results of such review to Congress within one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

I previously testified in September 1966 before the Senate Public Works Committee on this report and the testimony today is a brief of that previously given and includes the views of the Bureau of the Budget and Secretary of the Army which have not been previously given but are published in Senate Document 11, 90th Congress, first session.

The St. Francis Basin project, a part of the overall plan for flood control of the Mississippi River and tributaries, provides for a plan for flood control and drainage including Wappapello Reservoir, leveed floodways, channel improvements, and water control structures.

The improvements authorized in the 1965 Flood Control Act consist of channel improvements.

The purpose of this report is to review the requirements of local cooperation for the improvements in the St. Francis Basin authorized in the 1965 Flood Control Act with particular reference to Federal and non-Federal cost sharing.

The local cooperation requirement for the improvements authorized prior to the 1965 Flood Control Act consists of maintenance of levees. This local cooperation was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1946.

The 1965 act authorized channel improvements for the St. Francis Basin with the requirement, subject to this review, that local interests provide lands, easements, and rights-of-way; hold and save the United States free from damages; maintain and operate the works after completion; and make all necessary relocation to highway bridges.

This local cooperation is in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers in his report printed in House Document 308, 88th Congress in 1964. The total cost of these improvements was estimated at \$13,229,500 in 1965. The responsibilities in question in this report have a first cost of \$7,760,000 and annual channel maintenance of \$84,000, based on the 1965 estimate.

The recommendation of the Chief of Engineers in the report now under consideration is that the local cooperation for the 1965 works conform to those of the previously authorized project under the Flood Control Act of 1946, which limits the local cooperation in the St. Francis Basin to maintenance of project levees.

This recommendation is based on the high degree of local responsi-