

**STATEMENT OF BURRELL B. FAIR, CIVIL ENGINEER, ST. FRANCIS
LEVEE DISTRICT, WEST MEMPHIS, ARK.**

Mr. FAIR. I am Burrell B. Fair, Chief Engineer of the St. Francis Levee District, the Arkansas sponsors of this work.

It has been the position of my board that local cooperation would be furnished as required by Congress. We did not accept the recommendation of the 308 report but we felt after consideration that Congress would go along with the 1946 act and recommend the same local cooperation that we had had on the previous work.

In other words, my board agreed that it was left in the hands of Congress, whatever Congress required.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Well then, what would be the position of the board if Congress did not go along with this?

Mr. FAIR. If they did not, I feel the Board would have to make some effort to obtain the money to provide this local cooperation.

It would be a serious problem, Mr. Congressman, because we are still paying off our bonded indebtedness, the construction that was done before the Federal Government entered into the program.

We are still in debt from the pre-1936 phase and the pre-1946 phase and we paid all of the cost of everything that was done.

Mr. CLAUSEN. At least according to the report I have before me, we did not have all of the comments from the various agencies. We only have the Bureau of the Budget and the Secretary of the Army. Are they favorable, or what is the position of the State of Arkansas?

Colonel HALL. I might point out that the percentage of the local-cooperation requirements and is not in the sense a normal survey report which requires the comments of the other Federal agencies.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I see. I overlooked this.

Colonel HALL. I might point out that the percentage of the local interest share, this 48 percent, was that derived from the 30 years beginning in 1936 and did not address itself to that period of time prior to 1936 which Mr. Fair alluded to.

Mr. JONES. And the recommendation of the Chief of the Corps of Engineers at the present time is what?

Colonel HALL. The recommendation of the Chief of Engineers in this report is that local cooperation in the St. Francis Basin conform to that required in section 10 of the 1946 Flood Control Act which shall, to quote from the act:

"Shall consist of the requirement that the responsible local interest agree to maintain levees in accordance with provisions of section 3 of the Act of May 15, 1928, where maintenance is required under existing law."

Mr. JONES. Any further questions? This is certainly a case of marching uphill and downhill at the same time.

In accordance with Mr. Gathings request we will put Mr. W. M. Smith's statement in the record at this point.

(The prepared statement of W. M. Smith, Jr., follows:)

STATEMENT OF W. M. SMITH, JR.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is W. M. Smith, Jr., I live in Birdeye, Arkansas where I am engaged in farming and other business activities. I appear here today as President of the Board of the Directors of the St. Francis Levee District of Arkansas.