

My presentation to you shall be brief. However, in the written presentation we have presented, all of these projects are included. We wanted you to know, sir, we recognize the scope of your committee's work, and trust that it will meet with your approval if all of these matters are touched on even though briefly.

As a secretary of state, I have the responsibility of serving as vice chairman of the Florida Board of Conservation which includes the Governor and the six cabinet members. Under our State law, the board of conservation has the duty of supervising and coordinating development of the water resources in Florida and preparing the unified statewide program for presentation to Congress. That is the reason for my appearing before you today.

All of us in Florida are appreciative of the loyal and diligent efforts of our congressional delegation in securing Federal participation in our water resources development program. We also appreciate their cooperation and assistance in developing and presenting our unified program to Congress—it is our joint program.

We in Florida recognize and appreciate our dependence on the water resources of the State for our economy, our welfare, our existence, and our future. It is our purpose and our policy as stated in Florida laws to conserve these resources by multiple-purpose developments that will yield the widest use and most valuable benefits for our people and the Nation without depleting the basic natural resources.

The program we are recommending to you this year is in accord with this stated policy. In several cases it is a continuation or updating of previously started work, to conform with current developments. New projects recommended are those that have long been considered by the State and carefully studied by the Corps of Engineers. We have outlined our program in a written brief as a statement for the record and included our recommendation for each project. Copies of the brief have been given to your committee and I will not repeat those details.

The vital flood control project designed 20 years ago for south Florida needs to be reengineered and updated to take full advantage of all water conservation aspects and provide maximum multipurpose benefits in a region that has more than quadrupled in population and tripled in industrial development during these past two decades since the project was authorized. Modification of the project is essential to Florida because all the water that can be saved is needed. It can properly be accomplished under the plan developed by the Corps of Engineers and recommended to this committee for authorization at this time.

South Florida as we know it today has developed and progressed primarily because of the flood protection and other benefits provided by this flood control project. Without the modification recommended for authorization, our water deficiencies in south Florida will continue to become worse and will reach intolerable conditions for all water users as early as 1976. On construction of the project as modified, the water conservation project should meet normal requirements of the region until the turn of the century, except during infrequent, extreme droughts, at which time all water users will have to share in the adversity.

The Martin County plan is also a modification of the existing central and southern Florida project and is an adjunct to the currently