

Colonel KELLY. Thank you, sir.

Mr. ADAMS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will submit the prepared statement we have and request it be inserted in the record.

Mr. JONES. It will be made a part of the record at this point.

STATEMENT OF FLORIDA BOARD OF CONSERVATION FOR PUBLIC WORKS OMNIBUS
BILL OF 1968 BY HON. TOM ADAMS, VICE CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY OF
STATE

Mr. Chairman and members of the Public Works Committee, it is my pleasure to have this opportunity of discussing with you our Florida program of water resources development. It is also my honor to be able to join with the members of our Florida Delegation in presenting to you our State-wide program of public works projects desired to be accepted by the Public Works Committee and recommended by you for authorization by Congress.

This program that I present to you has been mutually developed and agreed upon by local interests, state government, and our Congressional Delegation. Each project included has been developed by the Corps of Engineers and is recommended by the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors. It is not a fragmented, sectionalized program but is the unified position of all recognized interests representing Florida, and includes our position on all water related projects in the state concerning flood control, beach erosion control, and rivers and harbors.

As 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 state-wide 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 up-dating 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.

Because of the peculiarities of the geography of Florida, we have to provide protection against floods and droughts, both of which are frequent natural occurrences in our state. We are now in a cycle of droughts state-wide, and because of this current problem, seem to have forgotten that floods do occur. However, we have experienced in the recent past, worse natural disasters from floods than from droughts. The 18-county region in south and central Florida, containing 40 per cent of the population of the state, is protected by the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control project. The 15-county central Florida area around the Tampa Bay region, containing 25 per cent of the population of Florida, is to be protected by the Four River Basins Water Management project when it is completed. Half of our state and two-thirds of our population are included in these two water management projects.

The Central and Southern Florida Flood Control project was designed in 1948, following several years of severe regional floods, to serve primarily for flood protection although it has multipurpose benefits. It has been under construction for twenty years and is nearing 60 per cent completion. More than two-and-one-quarter-million people reside in this flood control district. Some of the most important agricultural areas and livestock grazing lands of the nation are within