Florida requirements. The area has been developing so rapidly and the population has been increasing at so great a rate that a serious shortage of available water already exists and promises to get steadily worse.

The original project provided primarily for flood control. At that time the need for water conservation was not as apparent as now. For example, the average rainfall in the Miami area immediately adjacent to the Everglades and the water conservation storage areas is 59.86 inches. During the last 44 days we have had 31.19 inches of rain. Obviously, if this water is to be used it must be contained—stored for future use for periods such as occurred in 1961, 1962 and 1963 when we had only slightly over 40 inches of rainfall for the entire year. Accordingly, conservation must now be considered a prime and necessary factor.

The area served by this project covers 18 counties including Dade County, the most populous which includes the Greater Miami area. The primary source of drinking water for South Florida comes from sources within the project area. Furthermore, agricultural areas and industrial users draw their water supply from the same source. In addition, the Everglades National Park, one of the most unique and beautiful in the nation, receives fresh water via the levees and canals provided for in this plan.

The principal features of the plan include the raising of the level of Lake Okeechobee by four feet and the backpumping of excess waters into the Lake and the already existing conservation areas plus a system of levees and canals to conduct the water to the Park, agricultural, industrial and residential areas.

This revision of the original project would provide considerably more water storage than is presently available so as to accommodate foreseeable needs. The Corps of Engineers has given it a benefit-cost ratio of 2.8 to 1. It would have an estimated federal cost of $54,424,100.

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

In addition to the long range water conservation plan outlined above, the present Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project must receive additional monetary authorization this year. The completion of the works of this system must proceed in a prompt and orderly manner.

The need for both water conservation and flood control facilities is made necessary by the extremely erratic nature of Florida's weather patterns. For example, from May 5 through June 17 of this year—only 44 days—rainfall at the ESSA weather station on the edge of the Everglades in Miami measured 31.19 inches. The normal *annual* rainfall for this area is 59.86 inches. This makes the need for flood control quite obvious for the rainfall of the last 44 days is approximately 51% of a full 365 days.

However, drought comes as readily as floods, and in 1961 and 1962 the precipitation measured only 41.70 and 42.27 inches respectively—far below that needed to sustain water users' requirements. 1963 didn't fare much better—only 46.08 inches of rain compared to the normal 59.86 inches. However, 1959 and 1966 brought floods with 89.33 and 82.06 inches of rain that year.

The state of Florida requests an additional $32 million authorization and I support this request so that the project can proceed without interruption through calendar year 1970. We are considering the public works appropriation bill on the floor today. Without this additional authorization, the money we get today cannot be spent. This would certainly be poor business procedure and would cause undue delay in the construction of the much needed works of this project.

This year, as I have already noted, Central and Southern Florida has been subject to unusually heavy rains. Many areas have suffered from severe flooding. While the portion of the project that is already completed has been functioning well, it cannot perform at its full capacity until the entire project is completed. Accordingly, I urge that the additional authorization be provided.

BEACH EROSION CONTROL IN DADE COUNTY

Anyone who has been to Miami Beach in recent years or has seen photographs of the oceanfront will be aware of the devastating beach erosion that has taken place—and it is getting worse. The world renowned wide sand beaches of years past have, in many areas, been reduced by erosion to pitiful sand patches.

The economy of Dade County in large measure depends on tourism. Not only is the multi-billion dollar hotel and related business investment in jeopardy, but the mainstay—the life line of Florida is literally being drawn into the ocean.