

The Corps recommends that the existing Federal project for Central and Southern Florida be modified and extended to provide for construction of such project works.

However, the Corps would defer construction of the irrigation facilities so desperately needed until approval is given to the study on water resources for central and southern Florida which has just been completed.

With regard to this irrigation problem, I would like to make specific reference to Canal 131, which under the Martin County plan, does not include a pumping station for back pumping excess waters from St. Lucie and Martin County areas to Lake Okeechobee.

Such a back-pumping facility is included in the water resources study, but the Corps has indicated that construction on the proposals contained therein will not begin until 1970, or later, and will not be completed until 1984.

Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that the immediate water needs of the Martin and St. Lucie County area will not be able to wait that long.

I think serious consideration should be given to making the Martin County plan self-sustaining by including certain features of the water resources plan, especially a back-pumping station on Canal 131.

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Chairman, next I would like to present our distinguished elder statesman, Congressman Claude Pepper.

STATEMENT OF HON. CLAUDE PEPPER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. PEPPER. Thank you very much. I am grateful for the designation of "elder." I hope that applies to dignity and spirit and not age.

Mr. FASCELL. Definitely not age.

Mr. PEPPER. Thank you very much, my distinguished colleague, and Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. It is always a pleasure for me to appear before the appropriate committees of the Congress to endorse the presentation made by the Florida Board of Conservation, one of the senior members of which is our very eminent security of state, whom I graciously heard here today. I think all of these are soundly scrutinized, soundly presented and prepared projects, which are in the national as well as in the local interest. The part that primarily affects my district—Mr. Fascell and I share jurisdiction over the beach area, from the southern tip of Miami Beach up to Bakers Haulover up above the old lighthouse restaurant, or up above the Kenilworth Hotel, or the American Hotel, a distance of 14½ miles, and along there, there will be protection for the beach, there will be dunes to protect against hurricanes, and then appropriate work to protect against beach erosion, which is a very serious hazard for the maintenance of that beach.

In addition to that, there will be about a mile and a half just north of there for the protection of Haulover Park. It is one of the public parks in our area which makes the ocean available to the billion and a quarter people who live in Dade County, and also to some who live in Brevard County, which is just a short distance to the north of that.

As you know, all along that area, approximately 15 miles, is the concentration, I suppose, of the largest number of resort hotels to be found anywhere in the world, to my knowledge. And of course it is one of the principal tourist attractions of our State, and of our county. And the beach is an essential part of it.

In addition to that, this beach is actually, if I recall correctly, as I recall, the Constitution of Florida runs along the shoreline, so that just beyond the low watermark, as I understand it, it is territory of