

Mr. CLAUSEN. As a Republican, I am glad he is on my side.

Mr. ADAMS. Thank you, sir.

Mr. JONES. At this point the statement of the Honorable Edward J. Gurney will be inserted in the record.

STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD J. GURNEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM  
THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to join the many others from Florida in requesting the authorization of \$32 million to continue work on the central and southern Florida flood control project so vital to the future of Florida.

The project, located in the southeasterly eighteen counties of Florida, includes the Kissimmee River Basin, Lake Okeechobee-Everglades area; the East Coast-Everglades area; and the Upper St. Johns River Basin. The project is designed to provide water management and flood protection facilities in a 16,000 square mile area of central and southern Florida where some two and one-quarter million people live.

The need for the flood control works to prevent further flood damage and loss of life is accentuated by the phenomenal growth in southeastern Florida. In each decade since World War II, the area has doubled in population. Since 1950, it has more than tripled in industrial development. The needs of the region dictate that the project be completed as soon as possible.

The project will provide for removal of excess waters in wet seasons and for their control, storage and use in maintaining water levels during dry periods for all purposes, including navigation requirements. Flood damage prevention will average about \$30 million annually, with total annual benefits to the region of \$82 million after project completion. Benefit-to-cost ration for the project is 4.9 to 1 at this stage of completion. This additional monetary authority is much needed to permit the Corps of Engineers to continue the planning and construction of this project so essential to the development of the whole State and I urge the committee to act favorably on this request.

Mr. JONES. We will be back at 3:15.

(Short recess.)

Mr. JONES. The subcommittee will come to order. I hope we won't have any further interruptions, and we can proceed and conclude the hearings on the Florida projects.

HILLSBOROUGH BAY, FLA.

Colonel SEIDEL. Hillsborough Bay, Fla.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, this report concerns hurricane protection for Hillsborough Bay area located on the west-central coast of the Florida peninsula. Hurricane tides have resulted in serious flooding and property damage at Tampa and other shore areas of Hillsborough Bay.

Local interests desire improvements for hurricane flood damage protection.

The recommended plan of improvement provides for a barrier extending across Hillsborough Bay from Gadsden Point to the vicinity of Little Manatee River. The Chief of Engineers also recommended a comprehensive hydraulic model of the study of water utilization and control in the Tampa Bay region prior to initiation of construction.

The total estimated cost of this project is \$13,084,000 of which \$9,159,000 is Federal. The benefit-to-cost ratio is 1:1.

The estimated cost of the model study is \$750,000.

Local interests will be required to provide the usual items of local cooperation and have indicated a willingness and ability to comply.