Army prior to its submission to Congress by the Secretary of the Army.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement.

Mr. JONES. Now, the map notes the completed projects. Give us some narrative of what has been done so far—what has been constructed.

Colonel SEIDEL. Sir, the project originally provided for building of levees along Lake Okeechobee which gave us a pool in which we could store water. From this, we have projected a series of canals throughout the eastern portion of the State, to serve the various communities along the east coast.

As a part of this, for additional storage——

Mr. JONES. Are those laterals constructed to take care of the excessive amount of water into Lake Okeechobee?

Colonel SEIDEL. Sir, also through Lake Okeechobee we have a navigable waterway project. When we have had too much water in Lake Okeechobee in the past this was wasted to the sea, either down the Caloosahatchee River or down the St. Lucie Canal.

When we have great rains south of the lake, it is collected in the canals and is either pumped into the lake or directed into the conservation areas which are shallow-depth reservoirs.

Mr. JONES. In either direction.

Colonel SEIDEL. We can go either way; yes, sir.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Do the tides have anything to do with this?

Colonel SEIDEL. Sir, the tides would affect the project at the coastline. However, we have control structures in each of these canals to help us in this respect. We do have a problem in the sense that we must keep enough water in the canals to be sure we have a hydraulic head so we do not have salt water intrusion.

Mr. CLAUSEN. What is the principal source of water?

Colonel SEIDEL. Rainfall, sir. We are in an area where we have roughly 58, 60 inches of rain a year.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Catch basins, and then a distribution system?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir. Our conveyance canals move the water to where we need it.

Mr. JONES. Well, Lake Okeechobee is a relatively shallow lake, isn't it?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir, comparatively. We are now, under our project, raising the levees which will allow us to establish a regulation level at about 17 feet.

Mr. JONES. Can you control the level of the lake now?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir. We regulate the lake as required in order not to endanger it, so that it can accomplish its purpose.

Mr. JONES. In other words, you have eliminated any flood damages that may occur in that area.

Colonel SEIDEL. The original project of levees around the lake came about because of a hurricane that broke a dike, and we had——

Mr. JONES. Do you still have wind damages?

Colonel SEIDEL. The levees have been designed, sir, so they are high enough that the wave buildup does not overtop the levee.

Mr. JONES. What is the quality of water in the lake?

Colonel SEIDEL. It is very good quality, sir. We pump it through our canals and it is used on the east coast for drinking water.

Mr. JONES. Do you have any saline problems in that area?