

General NOBLE. Yes, sir.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Cramer.

Mr. CRAMER. Could you indicate—I gather from page 2 of your submission in determining benefit-to-cost ratio, there is no inclusion for the benefits to be received by Everglades National Park, is that correct?

Colonel SEIDEL. That is correct, sir. We did not know how to put a value on the park, a dollar value.

Mr. CRAMER. Well, if the real value of the park were included, your benefit cost would be substantially larger, would it not?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. CRAMER. Would you indicate the area of Everglades National Park—that whole southern tip of the State, west and central, right?

Colonel SEIDEL. That is correct, sir.

Mr. CRAMER. Now, would you indicate further what modifying channels or canals were included previously in order to accommodate present needs of the park for water? Would you indicate where those are? That is one of the reasons why the authorization was increased last year, was to try to get something underway on that, is that correct?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir. We are digging a canal, improving the canal, as you see the double width there, the Miami Canal, along the Everglades Parkway. This is being constructed now, and the purpose is to improve our efficiency in delivering water to the park. Similarly, the North New River Canal, below structure S7, you see another double width. This is the same type of thing. We are improving this canal so we increase our flow.

Then from that point, we have that S shaped canal and this is the third section. These three sections, two of which are now complete, were provided for this purpose specifically.

Mr. CRAMER. For the purpose of providing water to the Everglades National Park.

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir, to improve our efficiency of flow and deliveries.

Mr. CRAMER. And this increased lake storage is needed for that purpose, Everglades National Park water source, to a substantial extent, is it not, as it relates to benefits?

Colonel SEIDEL. Sir, the increased storage in Lake Okeechobee, as well as more water being pumped back into the conservation areas, together account for 655,000 acre-feet. This would be distributed as required. As I pointed out, we can go either direction in some of our canals. All of it is not required—all of Lake Okeechobee is not required strictly for the park.

Mr. CRAMER. I understand that. But there will be a substantial benefit to the park.

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir. It is a project purpose.

Mr. CRAMER. It is not reflected in your cost benefits. As you say it cannot be evaluated.

Colonel SEIDEL. That is right, sir. We do not know how to put a dollar figure on it.

Mr. CRAMER. In your opinion, it is needed for the park.

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir.