

Mr. JONES. The gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Denney.

Mr. DENNEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question. I was intrigued by your statement that at a low-level conference with members of the Bureau of the Budget, employees of the Bureau of the Budget, you had the opinion that they questioned whether or not the Army Corps of Engineers should be in on this project due to the Appalachian program.

Would you make yourself more explicit and clear on that point?

General NOBLE. I guess I gave the wrong impression, sir.

We have had no formal exchange with the Bureau of the Budget on this question. It is yet to come.

What their official position will be is yet to be stated. It is my impression from the last few days that the Bureau of the Budget staff, as is traditionally the case, are concerned when any new program comes on the scene. They are concerned from the standpoint of "here is another program that will involve expenditures," and their traditional role, of course, is to hold down expenditures. That is one aspect of it.

There is no question raised to my knowledge, that the corps has no role to play here. It is purely a question, I believe, as to whether or not the Appalachian study should be embodied in an omnibus bill at this time.

Mr. DENNEY. That was the point I was trying to bring out.

We had had the Appalachian development bill. We authorized millions of dollars for it and it is your impression that the Corps of Engineers is wondering whether this should be under the omnibus bill or under the Appalachian organization and the money appropriated for it?

General NOBLE. No, sir; the Corps is not. I think that the legislative history of section 206 of the Appalachian Act makes it clear that, while the water plans would be developed in close relationship with the Commission's plan, authorization and funding would be accomplished as part of the civil works program.

Mr. DENNEY. No; I said the Bureau.

General NOBLE. The Bureau, sir; I do not know.

Mr. DENNEY. I am not trying to put you on the spot, General, but we do have a proliferation of programs and the Bureau is supposed to be watching the purse strings and the question here with \$245 million, or whatever the amount, is: Should this be in the omnibus bill as an addition to Appalachia or should it be through the Appalachian program? That is what I am trying to find out and this is what you do not know at this time; is that right?

Colonel LEE. Let me answer, sir.

I pointed out, sir, that this study was done under two authorities, one was the 1936 Flood Control Act and the other was the Appalachian Regional Development Act.

Mr. DENNEY. In other words, you were requesting the Appalachian Regional Commission to make the study.

Colonel LEE. No, sir; I was requested by the Congress of the United States under section 206 of the act which directs the Secretary of the Army to make the study of the region, on the water resources development. This was done under the Appalachian act. It was coordinated with the Commission. This does carry a favorable recommendation from the Federal cochairman.