

At the last meeting which I attended here, it was brought out that the dam would benefit the oyster industry by reducing the salinity of the water. I do not question the truth of this statement, but I do object to the inference that the oyster industry should benefit at the sacrifice of the farming industry.

Perhaps if the Army Corps of Engineers are looking for a worthwhile project to undertake with the taxpayers' money, they can devise some way to clean up the Potomac to make it more suitable for recreational facilities. This appears to be an impossible task, but I am sure that with the expert skill and vast store of knowledge of these gentlemen, they can accomplish the task.

Mr. CLAUSEN (presiding). Thank you.

The next witness will be Mrs. Lena M. Clifford, of Silver Spring, Md., and while the lady is coming up to the witness chair, the procedure is to admonish everyone present that we cannot have any demonstration, even though I am sure you are enthusiastically supporting the witness, but this is a committee and the committee does follow that rule. Sometimes I get excited myself.

You may proceed, Mrs. Clifford.

STATEMENT OF MRS. LENA M. CLIFFORD, SILVER SPRING, MD.

Mrs. CLIFFORD. Mr. Chairman, as joint owners of land which would be affected by the proposed Salem Church Reservoir project on the Rappahannock River, Va., we wish to register our objections to the plan as proposed. Our property is known as the Horsepen Run mine tract in the Hartwood district of Stafford County. It is composed of 300 acres, more or less.

Our objection to this project is based on the following points.

1. Under the proposed plan, our property would be flooded or otherwise rendered unusable to us. Our understanding of proposals of this type is that the frontage along the reservoir area would be reserved for public recreation. Such use would require the acquisition of the entire tract of land. This land was purchased for our own health, recreation, and income purposes. Three generations of our family have enjoyed the near wilderness conditions which now exist. We do not believe that the announced purposes of this project justify the destruction of woodland such as this.

2. The flood history of this river does not appear to be severe enough to require the expenditure of Federal funds on a project of such large proportions to solve the problem. It must be pointed out that experts in the field agree that small and numerous dams at strategic locations are far more effective in conserving water and providing flood control than can be accomplished by one large dam. Also, land in its natural state of growth, such as ours is, is useful in controlling the runoff of rainwater, and thus reduces the possibility of flooding.

3. It is our belief that private power interests are quite capable of developing adequate power sources to supply all present and future electrical requirements for this area, including new industrial development. This has been continually demonstrated by the Virginia Electric Power Co. In 1966, the company completed a million-kilowatt plant at Mount Storm which serves this area. Future plans of the company affecting this area include a nuclear powerplant in Louisa County