

Are there any questions of the witness?

Mr. CLAUSEN. No questions.

Mr. JONES. I now call on the Honorable Birch Bayh, U.S. Senator from the State of Indiana.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BIRCH BAYH, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE
STATE OF INDIANA**

Mr. BAYH. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to submit this statement to the subcommittee in favor of the proposed improvements for the Wabash River and its tributaries.

This large area of 33,000 square miles, which is inhabited by more than 3 million people, has been subject to frequent, damaging floods. Although a good start has been made by the construction or authorization of several major reservoirs in the Wabash Valley, there is great need for this program to continue in order to reduce the inevitable toll in lives and property from flooding. Dramatic evidence of this need was presented by the inundation of thousands of acres of prime farm land this spring.

As the subcommittee is aware, the Corps of Engineers has been engaged for several years in coordinating a comprehensive study of the whole Wabash River Basin. Although the final report will not be completed for a year or more, two interim reports have been submitted and the third interim report should be transmitted officially to Congress in the near future. Originally the latter would have recommended three reservoirs in Indiana, two reservoirs in Illinois, and a local flood protection project on the Mississinewa River at Marion, Ind. Because of a dispute about one of the reservoirs, the Big Walnut on Big Walnut Creek, it is my understanding that the Secretary will probably recommend further study of this project before final authorization.

In addition to the Big Walnut, the two reservoirs proposed for Indiana would be Downeyville on the Flatrock River and Big Pine on the Big Blue River. In Illinois the two proposed reservoirs would be Louisville on the Little Wabash River and Helm on the Skillet Fork, a tributary of the Little Wabash River.

The benefit-cost ratios on all of the reservoirs has been estimated to be very favorable, and they all have been approved by State agencies and by various local governments. Some objection has been raised by a few residents to the Downeyville Reservoir, and the Indiana Farm Bureau has opposed it on the grounds it would eliminate a supply of limestone for agricultural purposes and remove some 11,000 acres from local property tax rolls. However, the preponderant weight of public opinion appears to favor these projects.

The proposed Big Walnut Reservoir evoked widespread disapproval from persons who argued that it would destroy certain ecological and geological values which are claimed to be unique. There is also a dispute on the extent to which there will be future need for the impoundment of quality water in central Indiana. No one questions, however, the need for adequate flood control in the Big Walnut area or whether the savings would justify the cost of the project. Alternate solutions have been proposed, but it has not yet been possible to achieve a compromise which would be satisfactory to all of the interested parties and still accomplish its objectives within reasonable cost.