

tain areas of admitted natural values could be acquired for the public and preserved which otherwise might be lost; and a probable future need for quality water in nearby highly populated areas could be met. All of these are most desirable goals; I believe it would be worthwhile continuing the search for a proper solution to this problem.

In my opinion the Big Walnut Reservoir is so vitally needed that a way must be found to reconcile the differences of opinion which now exist. Landowners and others in the Wabash River Valley have suffered too long from incessant flooding. It is essential also that an adequate supply of water be assured for the increasing population, industry and commerce of this area. I urge the committee to give careful attention to this problem and to approve authorization immediately for the projects in the Wabash Valley area.

Mr. JONES. Thank you, Senator Bayh. Next, Mr. B. K. Barton, executive director, Wabash Valley Interstate Commission, Terre Haute, Ind.

STATEMENT OF DR. B. K. BARTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABASH VALLEY INTERSTATE COMMISSION, TERRE HAUTE, IND.

Dr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I have a prepared statement. It is not very long and with your permission I would like to read it.

Mr. JONES. You may proceed, sir.

Dr. BARTON. I am B. K. Barton, executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission, a bistate approach to resource development.

Construction of the Big Walnut Reservoir, Big Walnut Creek, Ind., is urgently needed to satisfy three important demands in the Wabash Valley.

1. Present needs for flood control on the fertile bottomlands of Big Walnut Creek, the Eel River and the lower West Fork of White River.

2. Present demands for recreational land and water.

3. Projected needs for water for water supply and water quality control in the Indianapolis area.

Of these three demands for water control and development in the Big Walnut Creek area, the last is by far the most critical to development of the valley, a supply of good quality water is a most basic requirement for socioeconomic development in any region.

This presentation is, therefore, restricted to this concept.

The industrialized urban complex located in the upper reaches of the West Fork of White River includes the cities of Muncie, Anderson, and Indianapolis and a host of smaller satellite communities which contribute to this complex not only as residential centers housing the labor force but as minor industrial locations dependent upon and contributing to the industrial growth of this metropolitan area.

The Indianapolis complex provides a variety of interrelated services associated with commercial and industrial activity throughout much of Indiana and, to a lesser degree, a portion of eastern Illinois. To curtail the economic growth of this urban complex is to effect a realignment of the face of economic interests throughout a major area of the basin. The Big Walnut Reservoir is only one of the water storage units, located beyond the limits of the West Fork of White River,