

tional land and the protection of the natural areas provided for in the Corps revised plan which has reduced the cost-benefit ratio from 3.3 to 2.1 which is still a very good cost-benefit ratio and also an interesting thing is a high proportion of this is the State of Indiana is willing to pay in the cost of this reservoir, more than one-third of the cost will be borne by the local people.

Mr. ZION. I notice they are willing to pay you \$112,124,000 as contrasted or as compared to the Federal share of \$31,624, showing that the local residents have an interest in the project.

Mr. Mendenhall, I know you have more recently talked to the farmers in this basin about losses sustained this spring, not only as to the Big Walnut but many other projects in the area.

In your opinion, are the losses this spring greater than or equal to or less than those that were used at the time the cost-benefit ratios were established?

Mr. MENDENHALL. Well, the previous flow that would be comparable to this one in timing, and timing is so important in these farm losses—had this rain been a month and a half earlier the loss would have been negligible, but as it came in the middle of May, I would say that this would be comparable to the 1961 floods and I do not know what year the Corps came up with a cost-benefit ratio to this project.

I cannot answer your question exactly, but I do know in the Big Walnut project example there are roughly 40,000 acres of land, three-quarters severely flooded enough to warrant replanting. These are figures from the county agents and soil conservation people in the area.

This cost of replanting varies from property to property, depending on the amount of fertilizer and amount of weed killers and so forth that they use with the planting and the variety of the corn.

The price of seed corn in particular for these late varieties is very scarce and high when they have to replant. In some cases these costs have actually been from \$20 to \$35 per acre, per farmer, and he has to spend in addition to what he has already spent to establish this crop.

And he takes a lower yield because he has been so late in planting and he runs the risk of frost damage or immature crop at the time of harvest.

Mr. ZION. Thank you, sir.

I would like to submit for the record some pictures of flood damage, Mr. Chairman, accompanying the recent flooding with the Big Walnut.

Mr. OLSEN. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend this witness and this organization for their efforts in behalf of this valley and I want you to know that you made a splendid presentation.

Mr. MENDENHALL. Thank you, sir.

Mr. OLSEN. I appreciate it very much.

Mr. MENDENHALL. I thank you.

Mr. JONES. Any further questions?

Mr. CLAUSEN. No questions, Mr. Chairman; but I do want to just take a brief moment to compliment you, sir; on the very orderly manner that you coordinated all of you testimony.

You are obviously very familiar with the project and what it will yield in the way of benefits and I think also you can certainly see the great respect we have for your Congressman sitting here, coordinating