

this kind of a project with you people. You have a great team effort going for you that should prove of benefit to you entire area.

We are very, very pleased with your testimony.

Mr. MENDENHALL. Thank you, very much, sir.

Mr. JONES. Thank you, very much.

Next we will hear from Mr. Thomas Dustin, vice president of the Izaak Walton League of Washington, D.C.

Mr. Dustin, you may proceed.

**STATEMENT OF THOMAS E. DUSTIN, NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT,
THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA**

Mr. DUSTIN. Thank you, gentlemen. My name is Thomas Dustin, vice president of the Izaak Walton League of America.

My home is in Fort Wayne, Ind., and not Carmel, Ill., or Washington, D.C. or some other place.

I wish to thank the members of this committee for the opportunity to express the views of the league which is a nationwide conservation group organized on a local chapter basis and wish to emphasize this includes not only the 5,500 members, it includes the 2,225 members of "Save the Dunes."

In letters being sent to conservationists in many areas of Indiana and elsewhere, Senator Birch Bayh includes this observation:

I have long contended that some way must be found to construct the reservoir so that it would not destroy any unique ecological or geological features . . . In my opinion a compromise must be found which would not deprive future generations of the natural values of the Big Walnut area. It is only the section north of U.S. Highway 36 which must be preserved.

The Senator is entirely correct in this observation. But while we have worked patiently and cooperatively for almost 3 years to encourage use of alternatives to the present destructive plan, we have met with complete and total failure.

Let me say that it has not been the conservationist or the scientific community in Indiana which has been rigid and unreasonable. There are dozens of options and combinations of plans which would provide flood control, water supply, general recreation, and other water management benefits; without destroying the unique qualities of the upper valley.

The present plan should be rejected, and should be thoroughly restudied. Perhaps in the next session of Congress, a truly comprehensive program in Big Walnut can be developed. We do not oppose the other components of the third interim report, and see no reason why they should be held up, unless the Big Walnut cannot be separated and considered on its own merits.

The corps and other proponents of the present impoundment proposal have contended the natural features of the upper valley are of only local significance. This is refuted in three separate occurrences. First, the natural areas survey being conducted under provisions of a Ford Foundation grant by Dr. Alton A. Lindsey of Purdue University, places Big Walnut Valley in the very top echelon of outstanding natural areas which are worthy of consideration under the Nature Preserves Act enacted by the Indiana General Assembly last year. Second, the Indiana Academy of Science on April 26 formally resolved