

Therefore, I urge this subcommittee to recommend Big Walnut for authorization along with the other projects in this package so we can proceed with plans for construction. Final details of the plans are clearly a matter which could come in the postauthorization operation.

The pros and cons of this project have been discussed for some time. The State of Indiana, the people of the area involved and the Corps of Engineers have gone on record favoring this project. The facts and the statements are a matter of record which this committee has before it.

May I add just this one final observation. This particular part of the State has long suffered as an economically depressed area. While Putnam County has enjoyed reasonable prosperity, nearby counties such as Vermillion, Clay, Greene, Sullivan, and Vigo Counties have long been included as areas of high unemployment.

The obvious benefits of Big Walnut will be a much needed shot in the arm for the people of this part of the State. I urge you to add your approval to this project in support of the people of Indiana who have made it clear they overwhelmingly favor Big Walnut.

Just today I have been given figures by the Corps of Engineers of the estimated damage of recent floods of the Eel River.

Mr. CLAUSEN. What was the name of that river again?

Mr. MYERS. The Eel River of Indiana. But the Corps of Engineers just gave me figures today of the estimated damage as being \$1,170,000 due to the recent floods.

Now, much of this could have been prevented with a reservoir in that area. So, we have to look at this on the basis of what would be the effect on more people. True, maybe three or four farmers affected there do not want to give their land up, but how many more are giving it up each year due to the floods.

This is the thing we have to look at: that is for your committee to look at and evaluate. Who are we going to hurt the most, a few farmers who will be hurt by the reservoir or those who get flooded out every year?

I want to urge the committee to take a strong look and that you do include Big Walnut in the report.

The authorization does not prevent further study in this area to resolve this problem and I am quite certain if you do include this, and I ask that you do include Big Walnut, put it back in the Interim Report No. 3 and give us time, and with the Corps of Engineers we can resolve the differences of opinion here.

I do urge you include Interim Report No. 3.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question.

Do I understand you correctly, you are recommending inclusion of the project itself, but that the corps themselves give consideration to the alternatives to the advanced stages of the engineering and design?

Mr. MYERS. Yes; if it is authorized I am sure we have made tremendous progress already just last week. I do not know what the witnesses have said prior to me, but just last week I understand the Department of Interior was out reviewing this area again and I have talked with them and they have assured me that they are working in this area to resolve the differences here.

If it is included in the authorization I am quite certain the differences can be resolved.

Let me say this. This has been approved by the Department of Indiana also, this Big Walnut. It was approved.