

Mr. ZION. Is Mr. Claude Harris here?

Mr. CLAUSEN. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Harris did have some testimony and to protect his interest on this we should at this particular point in the record leave open for him to include a statement at this point.

I ask unanimous consent of the chairman to do this.

Mr. ZION. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The statement of Mr. Claude Harris follows:)

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.,
VIRGINIA DIVISION,
Alexandria, Va., June 22, 1968.

HON. ROBERT E. JONES,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Flood Control,
House of Representatives,
U.S. Congress,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. JONES: It is deeply regretted that I found it necessary to leave Thursday, June 20th, before the Committee had completed its hearing on the Big Walnut Creek Project in Indiana.

I understand that you asked if Virginia Izaak Walton League had a position. I am pleased to state that the Virginia Division is one hundred percent behind the Indiana Division on the Big Walnut Creek project and has made this a matter of public record.

We urge that you give serious consideration to the proposal as made by the Indiana Division representative.

For conservation's sake,

CLAUDE B. HARRIS,
Chairman, Legislative Committee.

Mr. ZION. Next we will hear from Mr. Arthur T. Wright, conservation consultant, representing the Wilderness Society of Washington, D.C.

STATEMENT OF A. T. WRIGHT, CONSERVATION CONSULTANT OF THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. WRIGHT. The Wilderness Society, a 40,000-member national conservation organization with headquarters at 729 15th Street NW., Washington, D.C., opposes the construction of the Big Walnut Valley Dam on Big Walnut Creek in Putnam County, Ind.

Big Walnut Valley is an area of unique beauty, containing exceptional examples of plantlife and wildlife. Its near-climax ecology is of exceptional educational, scientific, esthetic, and recreational value. Indiana can ill afford the loss of any of its few remaining lands which exist in their natural state. The value of this land, with its high-quality environment available for present-day and future Americans, is beyond calculation. Because these values are hard to measure, the land and its uses are peculiarly and tragically vulnerable to the cost benefit claims of the Corps of Engineers.

The dam is said to be needed for flood control, water supply, and water quality. Without the recreational benefits which the Corps of Engineers has included to improve the cost-benefit ratio, the dam probably could not be justified. If recreational benefits of the dam are crucial to authorization of this dam, the committee must weigh these alleged values of slack-water recreation which the dam will produce against the value of the recreational opportunities now offered by the land in its natural state and against the value of the educational and