

all other Indiana conservationists are not just trying to prevent the loss of a few trees, or of half of the State's most extensive colony of Canadian yew, nor representative specimens of the more than 325 plants which have been documented in the valley. The values which are of importance in this valley are found only in the complete land and water system which have given rise to the outstanding plant, bird, and wildlife community. It is not possible to save the meaning of this valley if it is flooded even halfway up. It is only important if it is not flooded at all.

This means that the level of any impounded water at U.S. Highway 36 cannot be higher than 750 feet. The corps proposes a conservation pool of 782 feet and a flood control pool of 808 feet. This will destroy the values we are fighting for, and would eliminate any possibility of a national natural landmark being established there. The release from the Department of the Interior clearly lists the flood plain forestation and vegetation as one of the main reasons for selecting the area for recognition. If it is stripped or flooded, there will be no natural landmark. At this time, there are at least two bona fide applicants for this recognition—Mr. Harger and Mr. Hultz—and their applications will soon be processed.

The destruction proposed for this valley is needless, and our organization is deeply disappointed in the reluctance of public agencies to select one of the many, many feasible alternatives which would leave the upper valley unimpaired for present and future generations.

In asking you to reject the present corps' plan, it is not as if we were asking that the natural resources of the whole State be "locked up," nor do Indiana's conservationists have a record of opposing the many, many reservoirs and flood control projects which now dot the Wabash River Basin. We are talking about a very special case, involving a single project to which there are many feasible alternatives which will not ruin these priceless values. All of the benefits claimed for the project proposed by the corps and the State can be provided without flooding and destroying the upper valley with impounded waters.

We would like to point out that a major benefit claimed for the corps project is water supply for Indianapolis. This would be a 35-mile interbasin transfer which will cost both Federal and State taxpayers millions of dollars. All of the water for municipal water supply from this project is earmarked for Indianapolis at a claimed annual benefit of \$500,000. Yet, nowhere to our knowledge is there any mention in the corps' third interim report of another huge water project announced January 24, 1968, by the Indianapolis Water Co. This project will be located just northeast and upstream of Indianapolis, and will have a storage of 21 billion gallons, 50 percent more than the combined storage of the existing Geist and Morse Reservoirs which now supply the municipal needs of the city. The corps projects the needs of the city through the year 2020, and the water company's new project will be completed by 1977, and will supply the city when its population doubles to 1 million. Since the corps did not take into account any water supply from the water company's Mud Creek project, it is clear that more water will be available for the city than was contemplated in its third interim report.

Even if some kind of mutual relationship should now be claimed by the corps between supplies from Mud Creek and Big Walnut, the