

We also reject the corps' proposal to go ahead with essentially its original plan, which is now accompanied by proposals to condemn 300 additional acres of land, install a nature center, interpretive facilities, observation towers, and trails. This proposal has been called by Dr. Robert O. Petty nothing better than a post mortem. These types of facilities will have no meaning at all if the valley is flooded half way up, and we are disappointed that the corps could demonstrate so little understanding of the issue involved.

There surely must be an intelligent solution to this problem. We are greatly disappointed that neither the State nor the Corps have elected to support one of the many feasible alternatives which would achieve a meaningful goal in the upper valley. We are certain that Indian's conservationists, and particularly the Indiana Conservation Council, Inc., will persevere in this issue until these changes are made. It is our feeling that this issue is fundamental to the very core of conservation and to the highest and best dedication of outdoor resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to the corps plan in Big Walnut Valley.

Mr. JONES. The Honorable L. H. Hamilton, of the Ninth District of Indiana.

STATEMENT OF HON. LEE H. HAMILTON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate having the opportunity to appear before you and enter my testimony regarding Interim Report No. 3 of the Wabash River Basin comprehensive study. This report is concerned with the development of effective plans for flood control and allied purposes in the White River and Little Wabash River subbasins of the Wabash River Basin, as part of the continuing Wabash River Basin comprehensive study.

Although I believe in the development of water resource projects throughout the State, I will confine my testimony to support the one project under consideration which is located in the Ninth District of Indiana. I sincerely hope that authorization can be obtained for the Downeyville Reservoir in Rush and Decatur Counties.

The Corps of Engineers has recommended it for construction. This reservoir will provide flood control, recreation, and possible water quality control. Operation of the reservoir for flood control would reduce a flood having an average recurrence interval of 35 years to nondamaging stages at and immediately below the damsite. The reservoir would afford significant reductions in flood damages along downstream reaches of the Flat Rock and White Rivers, and some beneficial effects would also be realized in the Wabash River. The cost would be \$33.7 million. The drainage would be 815 square miles.

Mr. Chairman, in recent years great strides have been made in the State of Indiana, and particularly the Ninth District, in water resource development; but there is still a great deal to be accomplished. We cannot afford a delay in the authorization of this and other important projects. Therefore, I urge the subcommittee to give favorable consideration to this authorization.

Mr. JONES. At this point in the record, I will place statements and letters received concerning the Big Walnut Valley project.