as I am able to tell, no such consideration has been given to these values in this case, nor has consideration of its possible alternatives been made to any adequate degree.

Your committee is being asked to buy a pig in a poke without even being given a very clear look at the poke. Since there is no apparent compelling agency for immediate construction of this project, I urge this committee to defer authorization of the Big Walnut Valley project, pending a more adequate review of its true costs and benefits.

Thank you.

MAY 13, 1968.

Lt. Gen. WILLIAM F. CASSIDY.
Chief of Engineers,
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C.

Dear GENERAL CASSIDY: On April 11, I wrote to you, asking for information on the proposed Big Walnut Valley Project in Indiana. My letter asked for the following information, to permit me to make an informed judgment on the merits of the project:

"I would appreciate being fully informed by your office on the investigations that have been done on the proposal to date, together with a report on the extent and nature of investigations made on alternative sites. I would also like to know what consideration was given and values assigned in your proposal to the value of preserving the Big Walnut Valley site in its existing natural condition."

On April 30, I received a reply, signed by a Lt. Col. Anderson, your reference symbol ENGCW-PD. This response was wholly unsatisfactory.

My original inquiry may have been insufficiently specific, although it seems adequate at this reading. In any case, I should like specific information and cost data on the project as it is presently planned, benefits assigned to the project as it is presently planned, together with similar information on every other project considered as an alternative to the Big Walnut Valley reservoir. I would also like to know, with reference to specific dollar figures, the values assigned to retaining the project area in its present state.

As I review this letter, it seems hostile in tone; I do not wish to leave you with that impression. I am simply interested in getting hard, usable data on the extent of investigations already made on the project. It would also help if you would indicate the amount of money already expended on investigating this project, and on each of its alternatives.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. OTTINGER,
Member of Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
Washingon, D.C., April 30, 1968.

Hon. RICHARD L. OTTINGER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. OTTINGER: This is in reply to your recent letter concerning the proposed Big Walnut Reservoir in Putnam County, Indiana.

The proposed Big Walnut Reservoir on Big Walnut Creek is one of five reservoirs and a local protection project which have been recommended by the District and Division Engineers and approved by the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, in the Wabash River Basin. In formulating a project for the Big Walnut Valley, the members of the Coordinating Committee for the Wabash River Basin comprehensive study, the Corps of Engineers, and cooperating State and Federal agencies were confronted with an exceedingly difficult task. Their objectives were to meet needs for flood control, water supply for Indianapolis, water quality control, recreation, and fish and wildlife, and at the same time to preserve natural values, insofar as possible.

The Chief of Engineers carefully reviewed the problem of protecting natural areas in the upper portion of the proposed reservoir area, while at the same time meeting the other needs of the area. Special additional studies of possible alter-