

cubic feet per second wrote to the effect that to do so would reduce the wintertime revenues to the Federal Government by \$1.7 million. These operations prove without a doubt, that the reservoirs are run for Federal purposes and it would seem more equitable if the Federal Government would prepare the channel to receive this quantity of water prior to making these high discharges at the expense of North Dakota citizens.

When Mother Nature ran the Missouri, there was one period of high flow with corresponding high velocities and one period of bank saturation. Now in contrast to the fluctuation cycle imposed by Mother Nature upon the river once every 12 months, it is occurring several times each month or more often. Since the main stem reservoir system is a unit and is operated as a unit, the channel of the Missouri from Garrison to Oahe is no longer a river, but merely a conduit for Federal use to operate its reservoirs in the manner which they desire. It has, therefore, ceased to be a natural river and has become a Federal canal. To accomplish the objectives of the Federal Government, the project is causing severe losses to many individuals, municipalities, industries, and the State. By any measure of equity, it would seem that these losses should be borne by the entire Missouri Basin project rather than by the State of North Dakota.

Besides, the loss of land to the river through bank erosion, and the flooding of low-lying fields during the winter months, the farmers are losing the ability to irrigate, because the levels fluctuate so widely that they are unable to maintain permanent pumping installations. It is not, therefore, much more than fair that the beneficiaries of this operation pay the cost of preventing direct damage to the affected properties.

A clear river would have many benefits. If the river were contained near the center of the channel and the water kept clear of silt, bank erosion would be eliminated. It would be a more beautiful river from an esthetic point of view. It would be much more productive. The silt which is now being dumped into the Oahe Reservoir would cease to occupy valuable reservoir capacity, consequently, all persons concerned with the Missouri River would be benefited indirectly.

Currently, all the banks adjacent to the river, between Garrison Dam and the Oahe Reservoir, are being attacked in varying degrees. Statements were made before the Senate committees by several persons as to the degree of these attacks. A most severe problem exists in that reach of the river immediately below the Capt. Grant Marsh Memorial Bridge. The situation is so severe that it constitutes an emergency. Representatives from the Corps of Engineers, who have inspected the problem area, likewise agree. Properties on the right and left banks of the stream are being jeopardized. A recent study made by the State water commission in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers, estimated the value of the property under attack on the right bank to be \$10,194,000, and the left bank, \$11,279,000. Mandan is located on the right bank and Bismarck on the left.

Unless the rectification works are made on an emergency basis, this area will be confronted with a major catastrophe. The aerial photography map covering the most serious problem is below the Grant Marsh Memorial Bridge and illustrates the attack locations. They are depicted through the use of the dark red strips. Breaching of the left