

roads and provide easier access to the recreation areas already provided by the Corps of Engineers.

The road in question of course is that unimproved road running west from FM 1578 and crossing the three aforementioned creek branches and linking up the junction of FM 639 and FM 744. A map is attached.

You will note from the map that all of the land where the bridges would be constructed is already owned by the corps as well as easements which run well north of the corps property. The road in question has no designation at the present time. It is used quite extensively by county residents, but is inundated a great deal of the time from high water which consequently denies access to much of the park and recreation area.

At this time I am not aware of any reports that the committee may have received from the Corps of Engineers, therefore I am unable to give any estimate of cost. There is however precedent for such action when the House and Senate concurred in a House bill 2178 during the 86th Congress which provided for similar improvements at White's branch in the Grapevine Reservoir.

Mr. HART. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, H.R. 13370 would direct the Secretary of the Army to reconvey mineral rights in lands acquired for Navarro Mills Reservoir to former owners for an amount equal to the price paid when acquired, provided such rights are not required for the operation of the reservoir, and that application is filed within 1 year from date of enactment of this act.

The views of the Department of the Army have been recently furnished the chairman of this committee. As stated therein, this Department is unable to favor this bill as drafted, and recommends that the views be obtained of the Department of Interior and General Services Administration as to the merits of reconveyance to former owners.

Lands for this project were acquired by the corps during 1959 to 1961, comprising 11,004 acres of fee title in 236 tracts, and flowage easements in 229 tracts of 3,342 acres of land. The acquisition policy was to acquire mineral rights unless substantial costs were involved, or the owner objected. At the time, it was local custom to buy and sell land without severance of mineral rights, such being considered of only nominal value. As a consequence, all but seven of the 236 fee-owned tracts were acquired without reservation of mineral rights.

During the past several years, various oil companies started exploration programs in the vicinity of the Navarro Mills project. Speculation resulted in acquisition of numerous mineral leases by private interests. At Navarro Mills Reservoir, the Department of the Interior, since 1965, has issued 22 mineral leases of 8,641 acres of land at an annual rental of \$4,326. As a result, a number of former owners now desire revestment of mineral rights.

Normally, General Services Administration has primary responsibility for disposal of real property interest pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act. Also, the Department of the Interior has general responsibility for leasing and disposition of minerals. We believe there is merit in having disposition of minerals centered in one agency. H.R. 13370 would, in effect, circumvent exist-