

ing channels are now 27 feet or more in both upbound and downbound channels. There are some 60 harbors on the Great Lakes with authorized project depths of 18 to 27 feet. The Great Lakes are connected with the Gulf of Mexico by means of 9- to 12-foot barge navigation on the Illinois Waterway and Mississippi River. Connections with the Atlantic Ocean are provided by the New York State Barge Canal system and Hudson River, and by the 27-foot St. Lawrence Seaway.

The Federal Government has improved in varying degree some 22,000 miles of inland and intracoastal waterways, of which about 19,000 miles are currently in commercial use.

The forces of nature and the encroachments of man sometimes combine to deplete or destroy one of the Nation's greatest sources of beauty, recreation, and inspiration—the coastlines and beaches of the seas and the Great Lakes. Federal activities for the control of beach erosion and hurricane flooding are entrusted to the Corps of Engineers. The corps makes technical studies of sea and shore phenomena required to devise effective beach programs and recommends projects in which a share of the cost is borne by the Federal Government to prevent destruction of scenic and recreation values by storm.

Our first witness before the subcommittee this morning will be Gen. Charles C. Noble, Director of Civil Works, Office of Chief of Engineers. General Noble, it is a pleasure to welcome you here and to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Director of Civil Works.

We have General Noble, Director of Civil Works, Office, Chief of Engineers, Corps of Engineers, and staff, and his assistants, who will testify to different aspects or categories of projects.

General Noble, I believe you have an opening statement, or preliminary statement, to make at this point.

STATEMENT OF BRIG. GEN. CHARLES C. NOBLE, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL WORKS, OFFICE, CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

General NOBLE. Yes, sir.

Mr. BLATNIK. Please proceed.

General NOBLE. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: It is a pleasure for me to appear before you today. I am Brig. Gen. Charles C. Noble, and I have recently taken over my present assignment as Director of Civil Works and am looking forward to continuing the close cooperation maintained by my predecessors with your committee. We are here to discuss with you the Corps of Engineers civil works survey investigations favorable to navigation and related land resource developments, and other matters before your committee.

I would like to summarize briefly the present status of specific navigation project proposals.

There are 17 Department of the Army reports pending before the Congress which propose authorization of improvements in the interest of navigation and beach erosion control. The estimated Federal cost of the projects recommended in these reports amounts to about \$600 million. In addition to these reports there are 22 reports in the final stages of coordination with the States, Federal agencies, and the Bureau of the Budget prior to submission to Congress. These reports