

recommend projects estimated to have a total Federal cost of about \$200 million.

This concludes my statement, Mr. Chairman, members of my staff are here with me and are available during these hearings to present in detail the project proposals, and the special items of legislation that are before your committee.

The first member of my staff that I ask to join me here, sir, is Col. Richard L. Seidel, Assistant Director of Civil Works for Atlantic Divisions, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Department of the Army.

Mr. BLATNIK. Colonel Seidel, do you have any additional comments, or opening statement, or shall we proceed with the projects?

**STATEMENT OF COL. RICHARD L. SEIDEL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
CIVIL WORKS FOR ATLANTIC DIVISIONS**

Colonel SEIDEL. Sir, I am prepared to proceed with the projects.

PATAPSCO RIVER (BALTIMORE HARBOR, MD.) NONNAVIGABLE

Mr. BLATNIK. The first one is to declare an area of the Baltimore Harbor, Md., a portion of the Patapsco River nonnavigable.

Please give us a brief description of the area or proposal for the Baltimore area.

Colonel SEIDEL. The area that we are going to discuss lies in the extreme northwest portion of the Baltimore Harbor. The main harbor, the main channel, lies off to the southeast.

Mr. BLATNIK. Yes.

Colonel SEIDEL. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the proposed legislation would declare a portion of Baltimore's historic inner harbor nonnavigable waters of the United States. The city of Baltimore proposes to fill certain areas in this portion for the construction of the inner harbor project I renewal plan as developed by the City of Baltimore Urban Renewal and Housing Agency. The inner harbor program calls for the revitalization and redevelopment of one-fourth of Baltimore's downtown area. The first stage, inner harbor project I, contains 85 acres along three sides of the harbor basin, adjacent to the southeast corner of Charles Center. It will provide a wide range of development opportunities. Private construction will include office buildings, apartments, restaurants, shops, theaters, a motel-boatel with marina, garages, and other retail and service establishments—all complemented by tree-lined, landscaped boulevards, waterfront parks, and playing fields. Institutional development will include a 70,000-square-foot science center, an international trade center, apartments for the elderly, a nursing home, neighborhood and recreation center.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to enable the city of Baltimore to show clear title to areas proposed to be filled in, so that bonds, secured by a mortgage on the area to be filled, may be issued. Under the navigation servitude of the United States, fill placed in navigable waters is subject to removal without compensation to its owner. While the possibility of such removal is remote where substantial development has occurred, still title and mortgage insurance firms are very reluctant to insure clear title to or accept as security