

H.R. 16392—3 YEAR APPRAISAL OF TIDAL AND GREAT LAKES SHORELINE

General NOBLE. H.R. 16392 would authorize the Chief of Engineers, under the direction of the Secretary of the Army, to make a study of the shores of the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Great Lakes. This study would yield an appraisal of the problem confronting the Nation in preserving its valuable shore resources, and would indicate the nature and scope of the program needed to deal more effectively with that problem.

This bill is similar to S. 1262 upon which the Department of the Army submitted a favorable report to the Senate, and which the Director of Civil Works supported in testifying before the Senate Public Works Committee. We continue to favor the enactment of such legislation.

The importance of preserving the Nation's shores has increased at a much more rapid rate than the growth of its population. In large part this is due to the unprecedented increase in the time and funds which the average American family can invest in outdoor recreation. But there is also a great and increasing pressure upon these lands as sites for industrial and residential development. Thousands of acres of this extremely valuable land are eroded each year and hurricanes and tidal waves periodically cause property damages running into the millions. For all these reasons it would be wise for the Nation to take stock of its shore resources and to evaluate the forces which threaten their destruction. The enactment of H.R. 16392 would greatly facilitate the attainment of these objectives.

The study would include a review of existing protective works and going programs and provide for coordination with State and Federal agencies. In addition to making available basic data of great value, the study would result in general recommendations for remedial actions and provide preliminary estimates of costs. Such information would be utilized by State and local, as well as to the Federal, agencies.

H.R. 16392 would require submission of a final report not later than 3 years after the date of its enactment, and would limit the cost of the study and report to \$1 million.

Mr. McCARTHY. Do you have any idea what this might get us into? I can visualize something very big.

General NOBLE. I think it will define the problem, sir. It will help define the problem for the Congress. The degree to which the Nation would involve itself would be subject to future determination by the Congress of the United States. This is primarily a data gathering study for the purpose of defining the problem, gathering the additional data necessary for the Federal, State, and local agencies to appraise what is happening to our shores, and coming up with preliminary proposals on what might be done about it.

Mr. McCARTHY. The gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. SCHADEBERG. Mr. Chairman, are there any other agencies doing the same thing or is this—

General NOBLE. The Corps of Engineers is, sir, in various locations. What this will permit us to do is to take an overall look at the gap areas, as well as the areas we are now studying to look at the problem in its overall sense. There are other agencies involved along our coasts.