

I assure the chairman that we will give it every favorable consideration to see if we can get this project underway. We cannot make any too firm a statement at this time. We have been through this in the past.

You do have a very persuasive case and we hope to resolve our differences with the Bureau of the Budget at least within reason so that we can take action on this.

Mr. RIVERS. We only want \$100,000 this year, but we have to have the authorization. I am a committee chairman, too.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, might I simply say very briefly—because I do not want to delay the next witnesses—but I think the gentleman from South Carolina has made a very extremely persuasive case. I believe that the gentleman from South Carolina is eminently better qualified and more knowledgeable of the facts involved than anyone in the Bureau of the Budget could be. The Corps of Engineers, whose experts have fairly analyzed the economics of the project, are more familiar than anybody in the Bureau of the Budget could be. The Bureau of the Budget is like a man trying to sell you an automobile without an engine.

The gentleman from South Carolina is always very persuasive.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Chairman, I have been over almost every foot of this area in the last 2 years on Navy duty down there and I am persuaded before he made his presentation that it ought to have been done a long time ago.

Mr. RIVERS. He knows something about the silting down there because he spent much time as a captain when he should have been an admiral.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Dorn?

Mr. DORN. Mr. Chairman, of course, I want to welcome my beloved colleague to the committee. He has stated the facts precisely and exactly and I hope this project is authorized by this committee and this session of the Congress.

Mr. RIVERS. We are happy to have had you with us.

Mr. RIVERS. Thank you, very much. I deeply appreciate this courteous and kind reception and I thank you, every one of you, very much.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

We have to announce to the witnesses here that we are in somewhat of a bind as the House meets at 11 today. We have a very important appropriations bill up on HEW. We will make every effort to hear as many of the witnesses as we can today, hopefully all.

With that in mind, some of our colleagues could help. If you could be on hand with your delegations, we would have you stand by.

Mr. FASCELL, could we hear from you? You have a very large delegation.

GULF COASTAL WATERWAY—ST. MARKS TO TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

STATEMENT OF HON. DANTE FASCELL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. FASCELL. I do, Mr. Chairman. What we would like to do is to bring up the director of our board of conservation, Mr. Hodges and Mr. Herb Kelley.