

other channels of Tampa Harbor; but since the Port Sutton channel was developed at private expense, it is not presently maintained by the Federal Government. The purpose of this request is to seek Federal authorization for maintenance of this channel, the same as for other channels in the Tampa Harbor.

There is one beach erosion control project in Florida recommended for authorization this year. It will protect an area of our shoreline important not only for recreation and the economy of the region, but also important to the great missile center at Cape Kennedy in Brevard County. Local interests have agreed to pay the major share of the cost of the project along the public use area where the beaches are important for recreation and public use, and essential to the economy of the region served. Protection of the federally owned shore north of Canaveral Harbor and at Patrick Air Force Base could be provided protection, subject to justification by the agencies involved. Details of this project are contained in the statement for the record submitted to your committee. We request your favorable consideration for authorization of this beach erosion control project in Brevard County.

We realize that reports on some of the projects for which we request authorization may not have been processed by all Federal agencies and their comments may not have been available in time for the Chief of Engineers to submit the reports to Congress in final form. However, all of these projects have been studied by the Corps of Engineers and favorably reported by the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors. If any of the reports discussed have not reached your committee before the hearings are completed, we hope that you may call up any interested agency to present their comments so the committee may consider the project before markup of the omnibus bill.

We hope that these project reports having cleared the Board, will be favorably considered by your committee for inclusion in the omnibus bill for 1968.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity of presenting our program requirements to your committee.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you, Mr. Hodges.

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Harsha.

Mr. HARSHA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to call the attention of the members from Florida, Mr. Fascell, Mr. Fuqua, and Mr. Gibbons and you might relay this information to Mr. Sikes, that there are a number of problems as you have envisioned created. We do not have the comments of the Federal agencies and the Bureau of the Budget so I would urge you to use your considerable influence with the departmental agencies to expedite their reports so we may have all the information available when we mark this up.

Mr. GIBBONS. We are going to ask their cooperation in getting it to this committee.

Mr. HARSHA. Be a little more aggressive in that effort because time is of the essence.

Mr. CRAMER. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. HARSHA. Yes.

Mr. CRAMER. Each of the agencies should be contacted by the delegation or by one of its members to ask that these reports be expedited. However, I am confident we can get some preliminary reaction from the respective departments and I am sure the gentlemen are also