

The other witnesses before the subcommittee today will, I am sure, give you the necessary technical information upon which to base your decision; however, the effort we are attempting to make to open the Red River to navigation and to stabilize its banks to provide flood control and recreational advantages transcend mere technical considerations. The project has a deeper human meaning, for the many thousands of people living today in the Red River Valley, for the businessmen, for the farmers, for the working men, and for those generations yet unborn.

I am firmly convinced that this type of project pays greater dividends and will go far toward alleviating those conditions which create poverty and joblessness amongst all our people. I recognize only one special interest to which the Government should respond and this is the interest of all its citizens.

The project which has been proposed for the improvement and rehabilitation of the Red River is of vital and direct interest to all those people who live and do business on lands drained by the river. I believe that the interest of these people demands our positive and immediate action on this authorization legislation and I urge the subcommittee to report the Red River Valley authorization project favorably as the same has been approved and recommended by the Chief of Engineers.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BLATNIK. We will next hear from our colleague, Congressman Pryor, of Arkansas.

STATEMENT OF HON. DAVID PRYOR, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony in behalf of the program recommended by the Army Corps of Engineers in the Red River navigation and stabilization report. The first efforts to control the river through the use of bank stabilization works began in 1946. For many years it has been an emergency "firefighting" program plagued by inadequate funds. The Corps of Engineers has wisely concluded that the only way to control the Red River is through a well-devised bank-protection system.

The corps has recommended a program consisting of realignment of the channel through dredging and cutoffs, training works, various kinds of revetment, pile dikes and steel dikes, and other works. It is felt that such a program will arrest the economic losses and damages occurring each year.

The Red River project has the approval of the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, the Chief of Engineers, the Bureau of the Budget, and the Senate Public Works Committee.

Those of us in the four-State area of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas recognize how important this project is to the forward progress of the Red River Basin in its work for flood control and bank stabilization and navigation.

Mr. Chairman, I know that you and the distinguished members of your subcommittee will give due consideration to my views, and I thank you for your courtesy.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you, Mr. Pryor.

Next we shall hear from our distinguished colleague and one of the outstanding Members of the House, Congressman Carl Albert, of Oklahoma.

STATEMENT OF HON. CARL ALBERT, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before your distinguished committee in support of the interim report