

on navigation and bank stabilization on Red River below Denison Dam in the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma.

The U.S. Army Engineers have done an outstanding job in the preparation of this interim report as a part of the comprehensive basin study of Red River below Denison Dam. The report contains complete information to substantiate the recommendation of the engineers that navigation is presently economically feasible as far north as Shreveport on the main stem of Red River and on tributaries to Daingerfield, Tex., and that bank stabilization is justified from Shreveport to Denison Dam.

I wholeheartedly support these conclusions and particularly those with respect to bank stabilization above Shreveport.

The stabilization and rectification of the channel of Red River below Denison Dam will result in enormous benefit to that area of the country through which it runs. In addition, I strongly feel it is necessary that this be done in order to provide for those future days when, I am confident, navigation will be justified on up the river to Denison Dam. The area served by this great inland waterway continues to grow and prosper and I believe the time is not far distant when that area will support commercial navigation all the way to Denison Dam.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I enthusiastically support and endorse this report and urge that the navigation and bank stabilization improvements recommended by the Corps of Engineers for Red River be included in the 1968 omnibus rivers and harbors bill. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to present these views today. I am confident this matter will receive the careful and sympathetic consideration of the committee.

Mr. WAGGONER. Mr. Chairman, I would like at this time to especially expedite as much as possible these hearings and introduce to you, Mr. Chairman, a man that has appeared before you on a number of occasions before, Mr. L. R. Roy Matthias, vice president of the Red River Valley Association, Shreveport, La.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Matthias is well known and an old friend, one of the most knowledgeable men in this area.

STATEMENT OF L. R. ROY MATTHIAS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION, SHREVEPORT, LA.; ACCOMPANIED BY C. A. FAIRBANKS, PRESIDENT, RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION, ALEXANDRIA, LA.; CALVIN T. WATTS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BATON ROUGE, LA.; DOUGLAS F. ATAWAY, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER, THE SHREVEPORT JOURNAL, SHREVEPORT, LA.; HOWARD BRABHAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD, AUSTIN, TEX.; GEORGE T. BURTON, PRESIDENT, NORTHEAST TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, DAINGERFIELD, TEX.; FRANKLIN T. JONES, PRESIDENT, CYPRESS VALLEY NAVIGATION DISTRICT, MARSHALL, TEX.; AND HOWARD WILKINGHAM, TEXARKANA, TEX.

Mr. MATTHIAS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a prepared statement which I would like to file for the record and only state that the