

Mr. PIKE. I am somewhat embarrassed, after listening to all of these witnesses recommending their thoroughly justified and highly desirable projects, to have to come here and say, in my opinion, this particular project which is located right smack in the middle of my own district, and is not near to anyone else, is not particularly justified at this particular time.

I think if the committee in its wisdom saw fit to remove it from the bill the Nation would survive and so would I.

I would like to reserve the right to speak further after those who are in favor of it have spoken, if they should raise any issues with which I violently disagree.

I would simply say although the cost-benefit ratio is very high the benefit accrues almost exclusively to one large corporation which needs it like a moose needs a hatrack.

Mr. WRIGHT. I think your request is inappropriate. One, if you desire to appear later following the testimony of those who appear in behalf of the project, is it your feeling that the project was not desired by the majority of the people in the area?

Mr. PIKE. Oh, indeed, yes, Mr. Chairman. I would not be here in this capacity if I did not feel that I was representing the majority thinking of the people in the area, the village in which it is located which has gone on record as opposed to the project.

The town supervisor of the town in which it is located—these are big towns, say 150,000 people—has not dared to speak one way or the other on the subject, while the county executive has come out in favor of it. I think he is not representative of the thinking of the majority of the people in the area.

Mr. WRIGHT. This is not a unique situation.

Mr. PIKE. I simply say if the committee in its wisdom sees fit to take the project out of the authorization bill there will be no violent reaction from the Representative here.

Mr. HARSHA. Is this in your congressional district?

Mr. PIKE. It is not only in my congressional district, but my district is surrounded on three sides by water; there is one other Congressman about 25 miles away from this project who would be the closest other Congressman involved with this particular area.

Mr. HARSHA. Single user's benefit?

Mr. PIKE. I am sorry you asked that. It happens to be an oil company and I know Mr. Wright's interest in this industry, but it is an oil terminal operation located in the area which has pushed this project from its inception.

They are going to get a tremendous competitive break at the taxpayers' express expense and I just do not think as a matter of policy they will really need it.

Mr. HARSHA. While Mr. Wright has shown some interest in oil, proper legislation has always adopted the position it would be substantiated by successful subsidy.

Mr. PIKE. Let me say this, Mr. Harsha. The benefit-cost ratio has been arrived at after redoing the study three times in order to get the benefit-cost ratio at which they have arrived. It is very high. I do not say this is not a desirable project at some time, but it is very controversial at this moment. It could be done. At this particular time in our Nation's history when people are looking all over the place for places