

The statement which will be filed by the Mississippi River Valley Association represented here today by Mr. Michael Cassidy gives the date when this project was first authorized by Congress for surveys and so forth. It has been a long time. I believe the last action by Congress was about 9 years ago. That is too long to wait.

Mr. Chairman, we need authorization now. We need it in order that when conditions improve, we can start construction.

I want to introduce Mr. A. J. Rhian who has already filed our Governor's statement and who has been a State senator and who has presented the Governor's statement.

I also have a short statement that I have prepared for my own remarks and to submit for the record.

Mr. WRIGHT. Without objection your statement will appear in the record at this point.

(The statement of Mr. Gurney follows:)

STATEMENT OF CHAN GURNEY FOR THE MISSOURI RIVER COMMITTEE OF THE
YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am glad to be here, and thank you for time and consideration you are giving to our most important South Dakota and Nebraska Missouri River Project.

Our project, river channelization and bank-stabilization improvement for about 54 miles of the Missouri up river from Sioux City, Iowa to Gavins Point, South Dakota and Nebraska, to give our area low cost river navigation. We now find ourselves with district and division approval by the U.S. Army Engineers, and by its Chief also by the Rivers & Harbors Board, Interior Department and Department of Agriculture but still not out of the Secretary of the Army's Office and over to the Bureau of the Budget.

Control and improvement of the entire Missouri River must rank as one of the major undertakings by our Nation for the development of our water resources.

At this point in time, the ravages of floods in much of the lower valley have been relegated to history. The major main stem chain of reservoirs stretching from Montana to the southeast corner of South Dakota is essentially complete, providing storage for 34 million acre-feet of flood water.

Hydro-electric power in huge amounts is being produced in the six great power houses at each of the six great multi-purpose dams. Irrigation is provided by the great amount of water in the reservoirs.

But in the reach of the river between Gavins Point Dam and Sioux City, the banks of the river are not stable. In spite of the regulation which is afforded by the reservoir system, erosion is still a significant problem. Aerial photographs of that reach are replete with evidence of channel changes, oxbow lakes, and crescent shaped contours which testify to the past meander history of the river.

The valley width in the reach between Sioux City and Gavins Point varies between two and ten miles, and at one time or another the river channel has meandered over at least 60 percent of this valley area. For the people, and particularly the farmers residing in this area, the continuing erosion process means simply that they still cannot attain the full income potential of the productivity inherent in the valley soils. The constant threat of erosion and the actual losses that occur every year have had an adverse economic impact on this area and on the State of South Dakota, and Nebraska.

In essence, we have in this still uncontrolled unnavigable reach of river a prime example of the problems that existed downstream from Sioux City prior to the installation of stabilization works. It is difficult for us in South Dakota and Nebraska to comprehend the apparently arbitrary cutting off of the Missouri River stabilization and channelization project in the vicinity of Sioux City when all logic indicates that stabilization of the channel should proceed upstream to the Gavins Point Dam regulating dam.

Five great dams have been built at a cost of more than one and a half billion dollars. Now in 1968, can we say we have our monies worth, can we now get