

is maddening, the pace these things must go after the professionals have made their evaluation. You are not alone. This occurs with respect to numerous projects whereas one time it seemed to be the policy of the Secretary of the Army to accept the decision of the Chief of Engineers presumably upon the assumption that he was the expert and that he had other experts at his disposal.

It has become more and more common for these reports to be delayed and second-guessed and restudied and reanalyzed almost ad infinitum before they ever reach the Congress.

The committee is sympathetic with your plight. I am not certain what we can do within the remaining period of time.

Mr. CASSIDY. I would hope the committee would do this. The authorization was requested of this committee and the Public Works Committee in the Senate and I think after this length of time the committee is entitled to the views of the Corps of Engineers; whether the executive branch continues to drag its feet on these and other projects is another question.

Mr. GURNEY. May I make just one more statement to give you a little bit more information and that is about a year and a half ago after the Corps had conferred with the Secretary of the Army, the project came back to the Engineers with instructions that it be sent to Agriculture who made a thorough examination of the project; and after 6 months their report came in saying that the benefit to the States of Nebraska and South Dakota as estimated by the Corps of Engineers were far too conservative and the benefits to agriculture would be greater. In other words, it was a glowing report. It was then delayed further by sending it to the Interior.

The Department of Interior came back with a favorable report, and now it is awaiting the transfer from the Secretary of the Army over to the Budget.

I believe that covers the information and we certainly appreciate the opportunity to make these longer-than-we-thought short statements.

Mr. WRIGHT. Thank you.

Mr. REIFEL. I want to express my appreciation and the witnesses from South Dakota on these projects. I know you fully understand the frustrations we are facing as a result of as you pointed out the passing back and forth, the findings and more findings, and I know that your members will give us every consideration in regard to action on this particular legislation.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Cassidy, I interrupted you. Did you have any further comments?

Mr. CASSIDY. I wanted to add the endorsement of my association to the projects testified to recently. I have four other statements that I would like to file in addition to my own.

Mr. WRIGHT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The prepared statement of Michael Cassidy follows:)

STATEMENT OF E. MICHAEL CASSIDY, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee: My name is E. Michael Cassidy. I am Executive Vice President of the Mississippi Valley Association and appear here representing that Association.