

to see the great economic impact which this project will have on the nearby States.

Development of the navigation channel will also mean industrial development along the river between Sioux City and Gavins Point Dam, an area with a large share of South Dakota's population and a great potential for economic growth.

Second, however, and just as important to the State as the river traffic which this project would allow, is the bank stabilization program to halt the millions of dollars of damage to farmland by erosion and cutting away of some of the best farmland in the State. This, once again, would serve to bolster the agricultural economy of both Nebraska and South Dakota. At present, some 124,000 acres of Missouri River bottom land are threatened by erosion.

The U.S. Army Engineers evaluate the cost-benefit ratio at 1 to 1.3 for the project, which would cost \$58 million initially; then return annual navigation benefits of over \$1 million, stabilization benefits of over \$2 million, and recreation benefits of nearly \$500,000. District and division approval has been given by the Army Engineers and by the Rivers and Harbors Board, Interior Department, and Agriculture Department.

I urge approval of this important project and am very hopeful that work can begin promptly on another important chapter in our attempt to harness the mighty Missouri.

Mr. BLATNIK (presiding). I recognize our colleague, Jack Edwards, accompanied by Gen. Walter K. Wilson, chairman of the task force, Mobile, Ala.

Congressman, will you please proceed at will and make yourselves comfortable?

MOBILE HARBOR, ALA.

STATEMENT OF HON. JACK EDWARDS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA; ACCOMPANIED BY LT. GEN. WALTER K. WILSON, JR., U.S. ARMY (RETIRED), FORMER CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U.S. ARMY

Mr. EDWARDS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure to be here today.

I would like first to ask that the committee receive a statement from Mr. Houston H. Feaster, director and chief executive officer, Alabama State Docks Department. This is the 40th anniversary of the State docks department and they are celebrating at this time. Mr. Feaster could not be here, but he asked that I submit his statement.

(The statement of Mr. Feaster follows:)

STATEMENT OF HOUSTON H. FEASTER, DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ALABAMA STATE DOCKS DEPARTMENT

My name is Houston H. Feaster. I occupy the position of Director of the Alabama State Docks Department under appointment from the Governor of Alabama. I have held this position for over five years. My address is Post Office Box 1588, Mobile, Alabama 36601.

The Alabama State Docks is an agency of the State of Alabama and, under Title 38 of the Code of Alabama, is charged with responsibility for the promotion and development of seaports and harbors in the State of Alabama.

Alabama State Docks is the local sponsoring agency for the improvement in Mobile Harbor, Alabama, known as the Theodore Ship Channel project.