

General WILSON. Mr. Chairman, as you have stated, I am former Chief of Engineers and I appreciate the opportunity to again meet with this subcommittee.

Today, however, I appear before the committee as Walter K. Wilson, Jr., chairman of Task Force 200, the industrial committee of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, requesting your favorable consideration of H.R. 17992 a bill to modify the project for Mobile Harbor, Ala., of which its study is near completion by the Corps of Engineers, entitled "Survey Report on Mobile Harbor, Ala., Theodore Channel."

I will present for the record my statement and also that of Mr. Houston Feaster, which has been presented by Mr. Edwards already. In the interest of time, I will briefly summarize these statements now.

The Theodore Industrial Park is a public development through a joint effort of the Alabama State Docks, an agency of the State of Alabama engaged in foreign commerce, the Industrial Development Board of the City of Mobile, a nonprofit corporation, and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

The park is comprised of some 4,000 acres, part of which was originally purchased from the Federal Government. It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles below the city limits of Mobile, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the main ship channel.

Surrounding this property are large acreages under few ownerships that will allow expansion. The primary purpose of the development is to provide large industrial sites at reasonable costs and to provide deepwater transit facilities for the movement of bulk commodities by the Alabama State Docks. It is totally a nonprofit venture.

The purchase of the 1,826 acres of the former Theodore Army Terminal for \$975,000 occurred in July 1965, with subsequent additional purchases by the industrial development board in 1966, bringing the total acreage to 4,000 with land cost totaling \$2,500,000.

Shortly thereafter, we were successful in locating the first plant which is now in operation. This is a refinery that produces 10,000 barrels of jet fuel per day from waterborne raw materials. The largest facility currently located in the park is McWane Iron Co., which purchased 1,000 acres of land to manufacture pig iron from imported iron ore fines.

The first unit, costing \$20 million, is now nearing completion, and they have planned three additional units.

These two plants alone will handle more than 2 million tons annually of bulk cargo.

The access to the property by water has been designed by the Alabama State Docks who purchased right-of-way for a channel and turning basin where the Docks plans to build ore-unloading facilities.

The Alabama State Docks expenditures to construct the canal, acquire the right-of-way, construct docks and ore unloading facilities, were approved by the voters of the State of Alabama in 1966.

The State has spent \$1 million for right-of-way sufficient for the ship channel and dredging of the barge canal and now has the money in escrow to design and construct the docks and unloading facilities.

The Theodore development has been a unified effort on the part of numerous public agencies and private enterprises. Aside from the expenditures and commitments by the Alabama State Docks, the State of Alabama Highway Department has constructed roads and has committed to construct with the County of Mobile necessary bridges.