

just the next logical step and as they progress, if we do not get the authorization here, then we have some steel mills and some dock facilities and what have you that nobody can get to.

It is essential that at this time we find some way, some language that we can write into this bill that will protect the country and this committee and yet, at the same time, authorize this project.

I appreciate the committee's time that you have given us.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you, gentlemen. Again we inadvertently got boxed in by an early call of the House at 11 o'clock this morning but we are proceeding very, very favorably.

The hearings will be recessed now until 2 o'clock this afternoon. I am hopeful that we will complete all of the testimony, certainly on those projects in which we have out-of-town witnesses.

(Thereupon, at 12:15 p.m., the subcommittee recessed, to reconvene at 2 p.m. of the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Mr. BLATNIK. The Rivers and Harbors Subcommittee of the House Public Works Committee will please come to order.

We continue public hearings on navigation and beach erosion projects, and reports and special items.

Our first witness will be our very dear friend and very distinguished chairman and senior colleague, F. Edward Hébert, of Louisiana.

Mr. Chairman, I believe you have a delegation with you. Do you have a statement on your behalf? Proceed at will. The time is yours.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER-MICHoud CANAL, LA.

STATEMENT OF HON. F. EDWARD HÉBERT, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA; ACCOMPANIED BY J. V. FERGUSON, ATTORNEY, NEW ORLEANS, LA.; LEON GARY, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, STATE OF LOUISIANA, BATON ROUGE, LA.; AND COL. WILLIAM E. LEWIS, NEW ORLEANS DOCK BOARD, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Mr. HÉBERT. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those kind remarks. I can use them in the next 30 days. The elections are on August 25 and I can use those kind words.

Mr. BLATNIK. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. HÉBERT. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity of appearing here today, because the two projects before the committee are both located in my congressional district, one in New Orleans Parish and one in Plaquemines Parish. The first, of course, is the missile place, the NASA installations there. And the Michoud Canal passes there and goes into the Mississippi Gulf, off into the Mississippi River. I have a group of gentlemen here who will testify.

I have always believed in relying on experts, instead of dabbling in things I am not completely expertise in. So, with the indulgence of the Chair, I would introduce these gentlemen and have them make their presentation. Most of them will file their statements.