

STATEMENT OF ROBERT L. SHORTLE, VICE PRESIDENT, MISSISSIPPI VALLEY
ASSOCIATION, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Re Mississippi River, Additional Navigation Outlets in the Vicinity of Venice,
Louisiana.

Mr. Chairman, my name is Robert L. Shortle. I am Vice President of the Mississippi Valley Association at New Orleans, Louisiana. By direction of the membership of the Mississippi Valley Association, this testimony is offered in support of the enlargement of Baptiste Collette Bayou between the Mississippi River and Breton Sound, and Grand and Tiger Passes between the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, to a depth of 14 feet below mean low gulf level, over a bottom width of 150 feet, with entrance channels in open water 16 feet deep over a bottom width of 250 feet and jetties to the 6-foot contour, if and when justified.

By virtue of a resolution adopted April 14, 1964, by the Committee on Public Works of the U.S. House of Representatives, the District Engineer, U. S. Corps of Engineers, New Orleans, Louisiana, has completed a study in December of 1967, with reference to providing additional navigation outlets in the vicinity of Venice, Louisiana. The completed study shows a benefit cost ratio of 2.5 to 1.0.

The area in question is a prolific producing area for petroleum, oysters, shrimp, and menhaden. Additionally, it is also a very heavily used recreational area for sport fishing and hunting.

In connection with the petroleum aspects of the area, exploration and development continues at a rapid rate with the Federal Government and the State of Louisiana, as lessors of the water area having a large interest in the mineral production from the area.

Because of the shoaling in the mouths and lower reaches of Baptiste Collette Bayou and Grand-Tiger Passes, vessels serving the Mississippi River Delta offshore area and vessels engaged in commercial fishing operation are required to use either South Pass or Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River over far greater distances than those that would be needed to traverse if the channels were enlarged as requested herein. We are requesting approval of dimensions of 14 feet in depth over a bottom width of 150 feet in Baptiste Collette Bayou and Grand-Tiger Passes with entrance channels in open water 16 feet deep over a bottom width of 250 feet and jetties to the 6-foot depth contour if and when justified to reduce the cost of dredging. It is not anticipated that the construction of the jetties would be needed for several years if then.

The above mentioned benefit to cost ratio of 2.5 to 1.0 is obtained in consideration of annual benefits of \$1,502,000 and annual charges of \$609,500. This favorable benefit to cost ratio is readily apparent when it is considered that the channels in question will accommodate in the first year of their operation approximately 1.9 million tons of commercial commodities. In this connection it is desired to point out that the benefits do not include any consideration of the value of recreation by sport fishermen and hunters.

We understand that the official comments of the various Federal Agencies may not have been received at this time, but on the basis of approving reports from the field departments of these agencies, no objection is anticipated.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge that the project for the Mississippi River, Additional Navigation Outlets in the Vicinity of Venice, Louisiana, be approved by your Committee and included in the Authorization Bill for 1968.

Mr. BLATNIK. Next is our very dear friend, Congressman Edwin Willis, of Louisiana the Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black, La.

Congressman, thank you for waiting.

ATCHAFALAYA RIVER AND BAYOUS CHENE, BOEUF, AND BLACK, LA.

STATEMENT OF HON. EDWIN E. WILLIS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA; AND DAVID GRAF

Mr. WILLIS. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am glad to appear before you to present this project. My bill H.R. 6525