

It would be inappropriate for me to list the names of those individuals and organizations, knowing that I am bound to miss some whose work has been vital to the success of the project. But representing them all, insofar as their great and unanimous desire to see this project authorized and completed in the shortest possible time, is Mr. David Graf, President of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District. I present Mr. Graf to the committee and ask the committee to receive his statement in support of the project.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WILLIS. Also next to me on my left is Mr. David Graf, of Morgan City, La., where this project is located. He is president of Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District. I would like to file my own detailed statement as suggested and ask Mr. Graf to simply insert his statement in the record, because, as I say, I cannot imagine any controversy over this project, which bears all, including Bureau blessing, all of the criteria usually required to be embodied in the omnibus bill.

Dave, hand your report to the stenographer.

Mr. BLATNIK. Without objection, the statements will so appear.

(The statement follows:)

MORGAN CITY HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT,
Morgan City, La., June 24, 1968.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: Reference is made to the report of the Corps of Engineers on Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black, Louisiana.

The Corps of Engineers has made a most complete study and submitted an excellent report on this urgently needed project. It is necessary, however, for us to emphasize that events subsequent to the time the Corps obtained its original information have not only confirmed the conclusions reached by the Corps, but point out the urgent need for this improvement to be made as quickly as possible.

Among the many significant items is the fact that in the lease sale held on June 13, 1967, by the Federal Government, a total of \$510 million dollars was paid to the Federal Government for the right to explore the water depths up to 600 feet. In addition, two lease sales since June, 1967, have brought the Federal Government another \$1.2 billion. Just two years ago the deepest producing structures were in about 280 feet of water. Structures will be installed this year in 343 feet of water and a demand now exists for structures in 400 feet of water. The huge rigs, 380 feet wide in many cases, necessary to carry on this work, have now been in operation about three years and will soon need preventive maintenance to continue an economical operation.

The proposed improvements will allow this industry, with its enormous return to the Federal Government, to proceed in an orderly and economical manner to develop the offshore oil mineral resources. With the royalty income to the Government involved approaching over \$200 million dollars a year, it is most urgent to the Federal Government that this improvement keep pace and be constructed at the earliest possible date. Also, it seems to me that a primary consideration is the continued orderly development of an operation that provides tens of thousands with useful employment in this area.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the report and respectfully request that you give your earliest approval.

Very truly yours,

DAVID B. GRAF, *President.*

Mr. BLATNIK. The project does seem to have all the criteria and all the requirements. The Bureau of the Budget files no objection. It is apparently a badly needed project.

Do you have any other witnesses?

Mr. WILLIS. I might roughly define in a minute the nature of the project.