

fabricated for use in the offshore areas adjacent to the project location. To provide for movement of these structures, a channel 400 feet wide must be constructed.

Local assurances

The State of Louisiana and local interests has been advised of required local assurances. These assurances have been granted by Governor John J. McKeithen by letter dated May 26, 1967, addressed to Colonel Thomas J. Bowen, District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District. The Governor pointed out in his letter of assurance that a number of parishes are to be dealt with and the Louisiana Department of Public Works has been designated as the State agency to coordinate assurance of local interests and to see that local commitments are carried out promptly. I can assure you that local obligations will be complied with as required.

Recommendation

On behalf of the Governor of Louisiana, Honorable John J. McKeithen, and acting for local interests, the Louisiana Department of Public Works recommends that the project, Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf and Black, Louisiana, be authorized to provide a 20' x 400' navigation channel as described in and according to House Document No. 155, 90th Congress, 1st Session.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you, Mr. Congressman.

Mr. WILLIS. Thank you.

Mr. HARSHA. Did Mr. Graf want to elaborate?

Mr. WILLIS. No. He just filed his statement.

Mr. BLATNIK. I call on my distinguished colleague, Representative Hale Boggs, of Louisiana.

**STATEMENT OF HON. HALE BOGGS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA**

Mr. Boggs. Mr. Chairman, I join with Congressman Willis, who so ably represents the Third Congressional District of Louisiana, in supporting legislation authorizing the expansion of the Atchafalaya River Canal. I have introduced a companion bill, H.R. 12707.

As authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of June 25, 1910, the canal connecting Morgan City, La., to the Gulf of Mexico by way of the Atchafalaya River, has become painfully inadequate.

The proposed project would provide a channel 20 feet deep by 400 feet wide. This would accommodate the present traffic and the expected increases in the size and volume of vehicles to be using the canal.

Although this river is in Mr. Willis' district, it would provide an access route for Avondale marine ways in my district. Avondale is the largest and finest equipped shipyard in the United States, and is a contractor for the Defense Department. This project will be invaluable to Avondale's operation.

In addition, there is the problem with marine vehicles with widths up to 380 feet being constructed in the area around Morgan City. These barges cannot be assembled in the area, but must be taken piecemeal into the Gulf of Mexico and assembled, at great risk to life and property.

With the current expansion of the oil industry in this area, and the expected 900 offshore wells to be drilled in the next 3 years, Morgan City is becoming one of the largest ports in the United States for platform and barge construction, maintenance and supply, which is indispensable to the Louisiana offshore oil industry, and, consequently, to the people of Louisiana.