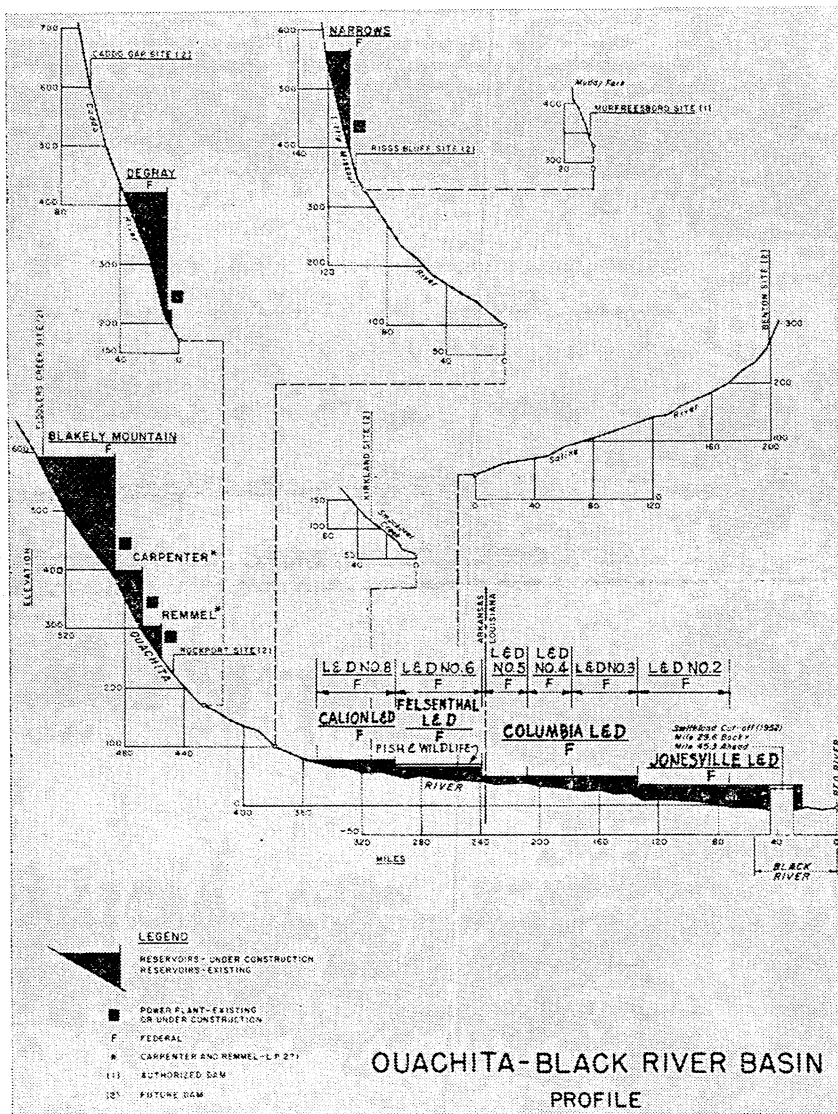




Mr. THATCHER. Our problem is we have a 6½-foot navigation channel in the Ouachita River that has become antiquated and the Congress has very generously given us a 9-foot authorization.

We are progressing very well with that in the State of Louisiana, but when we got into the State of Arkansas we ran into an insurmountable obstacle, so far as our local interests were concerned.

The local interests, of course, had agreed to furnish the rights-of-way and all the spoil areas and what-have-you that usually goes along with this. But that was in the original 9-foot channel authorization.

In 1960, the engineers had restudied it and came up with a very much better project for us. And this would obscure the depth of the channel