

by raising the heights of the lock and dam, rather than dredging the river, this being the cheaper method.

This works all right in all parts of the river except one particular part that we are concerned with here today.

When it comes to what we know as the Felsenthal lock and dam.

In addition, the first 6½-foot channel has six locks and dams. The new one will only have four, two in Louisiana and two in Arkansas.

When we got to the Arkansas portion of the 9-foot channel and what we call the Felsenthal lock and dam, we found there a peculiar geological situation that I don't believe exists anywhere else in this country, where the river banks are so low that when you raise the height of the locks and dams just a little bit, you cover a tremendous lot of land.

And we found out by raising the height, according to the engineers' program, to get the 9-foot channel, we actually had to inundate another 9,500 acres of land.

Then the engineers, of course, have to have a bumper area of about 2 or 3 feet elevation, and this adds another 10,000 acres.

In Arkansas, we are a little unfortunate, I guess; certainly not as fortunate as Louisiana where they have a public works department that can act as the local interest. In Arkansas it is the individual county that has to do that. And we have found that when we went to add up those acres and those counties, they did not have the money to do it. They could not do it. And then we also found that we have a State law that prohibits the counties from expending any more than 90 percent of what they can take in each year.

Also out of a constitutional amendment in Arkansas it prohibits the counties from obligating one county judge whose term is only 2 years, over into the next one. So we are stymied. We are stopped.

We have a terrible situation so far as we are concerned. We are perfectly willing to go ahead, and we did agree to furnish all the land that was required, because at one time we thought we were going to get that land almost for nothing. But it has been 10, 12 years since this thing began. Now land values have gone up to the point where we cannot get it given to us.

(Mr. Dorn assumed the chair.)

Mr. THATCHER. And they found out that other Government projects of this nature, the Government is furnishing and buying the land for whatever purpose it is required for.

So the people that own the land say: "If you can buy it elsewhere, buy it from us." So we are in a stymied position. We are asking for something that we cannot do for ourselves. We have about 20,000 acres of land there that really does not add anything to the navigation pool except that it is there and has to be inundated and incidentally the whole cost, I think, of the project, by buying that land and getting the navigation channel, the 9-foot navigation channel that way, is cheaper than if they dug the channel 3 feet deeper to get the 9 feet.

So that is about what we are up against. I have a little map here. This map shows what we are talking about in this particular navigation pool. Just hold it up there, and you can see what we are talking about [indicating].