

In view of the above limitation, I see no way in which the affected counties may legally purchase the required land on the "local interest" project.

Trusting the above information will be beneficial to you, I remain,

Very truly yours,

JOE PURCELL,

Attorney General.

By WILLIAM R. HASS,

Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. THATCHER. I have a third resolution from the Arkansas Waterways Commission, which simply endorses what we have done from a navigation standpoint. And I would like to turn that in for the record.

Mr. DORN. Likewise that will be included in the record.

(The resolution follows:)

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Arkansas General Assembly of 1967 established the Arkansas Waterways Commission to act for and in the behalf of the State in promoting, developing and protecting the inland waterway interests in Arkansas, and

Whereas the Ouachita-Black River navigation project to increase the present 6½ foot channel to a standard 9 foot channel was authorized by the Congress in 1950, and amended in 1958 and in 1960, must again be amended if this economically justified and badly needed project with a 1.541 benefit cost ratio is to be completed bringing the 9 foot navigation channel up to Camden, Arkansas, and

Whereas the late modifications of the project have brought about the necessity for the local interests to purchase an additional 24,500 acres of land beyond the original authorization requirements, and

Whereas the local interests, which in the case of Arkansas, must be the immediate counties involved, are not financially able to purchase the lands required and are prohibited by law from obligating themselves for such a sizeable purchase, and

Whereas this land problem is confined to the Felsenthal Lock and Dam navigation pool concerning only three Arkansas Counties and the people involved are only asking for something they cannot do for themselves, and

Whereas many precedents have been established where the Federal government has purchased lands needed for such flooded areas where the benefits were widespread as in the case of this Ouachita River navigation project: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Arkansas Waterways Commission join with the Ouachita River Valley Association and all of the people in South Arkansas in urging the Congress to amend the existing Ouachita-Black River 9 foot channel navigation project to make the cost of the excess overflow lands needed for the project become a part of the project cost.

Approved this 15th day of May, 1968.

PRATT REMMEL,

Chairman.

CARL OLSSON,

Acting Executive Director.

Mr. DORN. Any questions from the committee?

Mr. HARSHA. I would like to find out where the Corps of Engineers report is on this project now? Where does that stand? Can you tell me?

Mr. THATCHER. Where does it stand?

Mr. HARSHA. Yes. Have they completed their report?

Mr. THATCHER. They have completed it.

Mr. HARSHA. Well, the purpose of your appearance here is for the committee to authorize the purchase of additional land that is going to be inundated by this project?

Mr. THATCHER. We find that we are unable to purchase the land that has to be inundated for this particular project. This is separate and apart from land on which the dam will be placed, and cutoffs in