

carrying more than 150,000 tons of commerce per year, including more than 40,000 tons of soybeans. As this committee well knows, my legislative career has been largely devoted to the interests of the farmer and for that reason this project particularly appeals to me, since the freight savings, especially on the grain crops, are passed on to the farmer in the prices he receives. This means a direct and tangible benefit to the individual farmer who will be served by the waterway.

The city of Greenwood, in my district, will be the terminus for the project. Its citizens are particularly interested because of the prospects a navigable Yazoo River furnishes for its future growth. Greenwood already enjoys outstanding transportation facilities—rail, highway, and air. When this project is completed, no community in the country will enjoy finer advantages for industrial growth.

There are other benefits from the project, particularly in recreational facilities, which make it one of the most attractive public works improvements it has been my pleasure to support.

I urge your most favorable consideration and your recommendation for its authorization.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you, Mr. Abernethy.

Next, Representative G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery, from Mississippi.

STATEMENT OF HON. G. V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am happy to submit this statement on behalf of the Yazoo River navigation project in Mississippi.

As you know, it would provide a year-round 9-foot navigation channel on the Yazoo River from Greenwood to Vicksburg, Miss. This would be accomplished by constructing a navigation lock and a tainter-gated dam near the mouth of the river at Vicksburg.

It would also require channel realignment at several locations, dredging, training dikes, channel clearing, and one bridge alteration to provide adequate clearance for navigation. Recreational facilities are also proposed incidental to the foregoing improvements.

The Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors has concurred in the plans for this project and it has recommended that the existing navigation project on the Yazoo River from its mouth to Greenwood, Miss., be modified to provide for the improvement presently being considered by this committee.

It is estimated that the first cost of the Yazoo River navigation project would be \$53 million, providing a benefit-cost ratio of 1.6 to 1. The Federal cost would be \$51,240,000 for construction and lands in the reservoir, exclusive of aids to navigation; \$1,760,000 would be the non-Federal cost of lands, easements, and rights-of-way along the Yazoo River, one bridge alteration, and for repayment under the provisions of the Federal Water Project Recreation Act.

The estimated population in 1965 of the 14 counties considered commercially tributary to the proposed improvement was 362,000. Farming and cattle raising are now the principal occupations in this area. Although industrial growth is proceeding rapidly, the completion of this project would speed this progress and greatly improve the economic welfare of the area.