

Mr. BLATNIK. I see. So generally the concept is sound, in your estimation?

General NOBLE. In principle, it is a good thing.

Mr. BLATNIK. Would be far better use of the lower Manhattan and extending the area out into nonnavigable portions, where, over a period of years, there is no need for navigation.

General NOBLE. They have fallen into disuse and disrepair. They are collecting snags and silting up. It is not a good situation. It needs facelifting.

Mr. BLATNIK. It needs this type of congressional action before you can get any financing from private sources, whether it be insurance companies or banks?

General NOBLE. This is the situation. Because the navigation servitude, the financing companies are not willing to risk their money.

Mr. BLATNIK. We have no bill on legal language yet drafted.

General NOBLE. I have seen none, sir. I would hope in the drafting of such language, we will be able to put these necessary safeguards in that will not end up in our creating something that we do not want. I am particularly concerned, Mr. Chairman, that we not set up a legislative determination of nonnavigability along a line which subsequently is not built out to, for one reason or another, either engineering reasons or project concept reasons. We are liable to end up with a strip of water, either along the shore or into marina areas that comes under nobody's control. The Coast Guard will not be able to go in there.

The Corps of Engineers will have no authority in there. This nobody wants, including the development authority representatives. I have ascertained. It has to be worked out.

Mr. BLATNIK. You have made the point, safeguards should be there, and we will urge and see that they are in there.

Would you be able, in general, to have your staff people, legal people, write out the language basically, spell out the objectives of this proposal by Mr. Celler to meet the general needs and objectives of their Office of Lower Manhattan Development, and yet have flexibility so you can adjust your boundaries. You do not have to have a fixed line determined now, just approximately in this area, or boundaries to be later determined, but approximately in this area. That could be put in language.

General NOBLE. I am sure it can. I feel we ought to do this, and we have arranged for meetings to this end in the next day or so.

Mr. BLATNIK. Would you pursue this further with Mr. Celler's people?

General NOBLE. Yes, sir.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you very much. Mr. Harsha.

Mr. HARSHA. General, what is the position of the State of New York and the city of New York on this proposed language?

General NOBLE. They are for it, sir. They are jointly in partnership on it.

Mr. HARSHA. Did we do this a couple of years ago for a portion of this?

General NOBLE. I believe along the East River.

Mr. HARSHA. The East River?