

continue their drive for industry. They are apparently doing a good job in an area of great importance.

If we could tell them your project seems to be very positive in many aspects of this early stage for processing, however it must go through all the channels, as every other project, and we estimate it would take about 6 months, 8 months—

General NOBLE. About 6 months.

Mr. BLATNIK. About 6 months. We are sort of encouraging a favorable report to make to the persons involved without prejudicing the project whatsoever.

SABINE RIVER BASIN COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

We will take up next the Sabine River comprehensive basin survey report for the Sabine River and tributaries, Texas.

Mr. Roberts has his material ready. Colonel Shaffer, I believe you are in charge of that.

Mr. Roberts, would you open up?

Mr. ROBERTS. This will be a dual-purpose project. It would provide ultimate navigation to Longview. I just passed out some newspapers showing the third flood in the last 2 years. The Corps of Engineers has just completed a comprehensive survey, Mr. Chairman. It has been referred to the agencies, but no action has been taken, and none can be taken shortly.

We have lost 15 lives and over \$50 million worth of property damage. The dual-purpose project, the navigation channel, will also take the water away and solve most problems temporarily. So I appreciate having the chance to have the corps testify and know what their plans are and what we can do to expedite the decisions.

Mr. BLATNIK. Congressman, I notice from the very impressive half-page of the newspaper, a photograph that you put before the committee, this is dated as recently as last May 24.

Mr. ROBERTS. Just a month ago was the third one. We have had three major floods in 2 years. We have lost a total of \$50 million and 15 lives.

General will you tell them basically what the study has done and what we can do that would be helpful to try to expedite this project to at least get some relief?

General NOBLE. Colonel Shaffer has a statement to make on it, sir.

STATEMENT OF LT. COL. GEORGE B. SHAFFER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CIVIL WORKS FOR PLAINS DIVISION, OFFICE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Colonel SHAFFER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the Sabine River Basin comprehensive study was initiated in 1962 as one of the 16 individual river basin studies, type 2, included in the program undertaken by the ad hoc Water Resources Council to meet the goal of having comprehensive studies for the major basins of the country by 1970. This study was a cooperative effort of Federal agencies and the States of Louisiana and Texas, accomplished under the general guidance of the ad hoc Sabine Basin Coordinating Committee.