

Mr. BLATNIK. You are generally in opposition to the modification of this project, is that right?

Colonel HALL. That is correct.

Mr. BLATNIK. What would be the reason again?

Colonel HALL. The reason we are in opposition to this is because the items of local cooperation for this project are in accord with established policy for navigation projects, and we see no reason, really, for preferential treatment of any reach of the system.

Mr. BLATNIK. On the grounds, therefore, that the local interests are unable or unwilling to contribute the local share; is that it?

Colonel HALL. The local interests have not furnished the necessary assurances for the Felsenthal pool, which is one of four locks and dams on this navigation system.

Mr. BLATNIK. Any questions?

Mr. HARSHA. You are in opposition to this project, then, as I understand it?

Colonel HALL. No, sir. We are not in opposition to the project. We think it is a very good project, but we do not feel that the local cooperation requirements should be amended for any reach in preferential treatment to—

Mr. BLATNIK. Are local interests unwilling or unable to comply with the requirements for local cooperation?

Colonel HALL. They say they are unable, sir.

General NOBLE. This is really a matter for the committee to decide. This is a good project. The local interests have stated that for several reasons they have been unable to come up with this locally and ask for relief.

From our standpoint, we see no reason why we should have a different requirement for local cooperation of this group rather than another.

But it is really up to the committee to decide whether their inability to come up with this cooperation—

Mr. BLATNIK. We will review that on the staff level further.

General NOBLE. There is no question about the project. It is a good one.

Mr. CLAUSEN. This question of being unable to meet the local sponsorship requirements, now this, of course, would certainly need some review, because we find that this is quite a natural position that some people would take. And I am afraid if we ever established a precedent here of authorizing a project without a clear demonstration, just strictly inability to provide local responsibility requirements, to me would not be enough. I think you are setting up a pretty dangerous precedent here.

Have you had a chance to review the situation to determine whether they really have the ability to meet these requirements or not?

Colonel HALL. Sir, when the project was authorized, and while being considered by the Congress in 1960, local interests did indicate their willingness to come forth with all the stated requirements of local cooperation.

In fact, subsequent to that they furnished acts of assurances for this purpose.

Now, subsequent to the authorization in 1960, the local interests requested consideration of increasing the elevation of this particular