

Kentucky Has Dire Need for Flood Control

By JOSEPH VARILLA
United Press International
Frankfort, Ky. (UPI)—"Put in the words 'flood control' again," the governor's aide said to a colleague. "Repeat it again and again—'flood control, flood control'—it's the key to everything."

They were composing a telegram for Gov. Bert Combs to send to the chairmen of key congressional committees. It was designed to prod congress into finding ways of pulling depressed east Kentucky up by the boot straps after the area's worst flood in history.

"The governor wants his flood control stressed and stressed," Julius Rather said.

On the previous Monday (March 11), torrential rains caused destructive flash flooding in a wide area of mountainous eastern Kentucky where the economic future appears grim, acts of nature not considered. A dozen or more communities are at the mercy of the Cumberland, Kentucky and Big Sandy rivers because their business districts and many homes lay

in narrow bands of low land between the river banks and steep rising mountains. There's no place to build, except flood-threatened low land.

Damage \$50 Million
Officials who surveyed the flood scene estimated the damage would exceed the \$50 million cost of the major flooding six years ago.

Earlier, Rather had been scanning a newspaper account of the tragedy. He stopped and read a paragraph aloud:

"It's not like in 1957 (the year of the worst previous flood) when the people came out with almost incredible determination to get going again. That was based on the prediction that they would get some dams, some form of flood control. They haven't gotten them yet."

John Whisman, director of the state's area program office, said he had been in the area the day before with some federal officials to see the damage first-hand and talk with some of the victims. He found the same thing. "Something's got to be

done," Whisman said. "When these mountain people lose their determination, it's bad. And that's what's happened in many cases."

Despair Reigns
Willie Dawahare, the mayor of Hazard which was one of the hardest hit towns, had noticed the same feeling of despair.

"The effect just builds and builds and builds," he told this reporter several hours after the flood waters had begun to recede. "You can take one flood, or even two but when all you've got to look forward to is the possibility of the same thing happening next year, or the year after, well . . ."

His eyes had welled up with tears and his voice broke off.

It was a double tragedy for the mayor—seeing his town on its knees again and suffering a personal loss of "about \$50,000" in the store he owns. This was on top of a \$100,000 loss in 1957. He's still paying off that loan, as are other businessmen in Hazard, Pikeville, Harlan, Prestonsburg,

Hamman—in fact, almost all over east Kentucky.

"How much would it cost to build a couple of dams and prevent all this?" Dawahare asked and then answered his own question.

Cost Minimal
"Why it would be a drop in the bucket compared to the losses we've been suffering. In the '57 flood, the damage in east Kentucky was \$50 million. It'll be more than that this time. In Hazard alone, the damage will run over \$2 million. And, you know, this is a depressed area. It's bad enough when times are good. But it's bad here. It's been bad for a long time."

Whisman said the Federal Small Business Administration would make 3 per cent interest loans available for the area to build up again. But he wondered how many small merchants would be able to take a loan anyway.

"They're still paying off 15- and 20-year loans from 1957 and a lot of them suffered damage again in 1959," he said. "How can they afford another loan? We think it will

be necessary for non-interest loans maybe—or at least a moratorium on the interest. Any of this probably will take congressional action."

He said the immediate problem was to find the money to get the area back on its feet. In many cases, this would take accelerated public works programs, Whisman said, but the act probably will have to be liberalized to permit it.

The small home owner who lost almost everything hardly could get back at least where he was without a job. And many don't have jobs.

Problem Continues
But even if funds are found, Whisman said, that solves only the immediate problem. The basic problem of stopping the flooding still isn't answered.

In flood-ravaged Harlan, banker Vernon Cole was confident the immediate emergency would be overcome, but he was much troubled about the future. "We had 29 houses lost completely here," he said.

"And there are more than 200 others that suffered major damage. But the Red Cross has offered help. It said it would refurbish and rebuild for the people too poor to do it for themselves. The Red Cross said it spent \$1.5 million in Pike county in '57 and they'll do the same here this year."

"But that doesn't solve our real problem. Flood control is the answer. We've been trying to get it for years, but we can't get a dam built on this (the Cumberland) river. Dams could have prevented what we had, like they control flooding in other places."

"Industry doesn't want to come here to get flooded out, and why build roads and bridges when they'll be washed out?"

Said gubernatorial aide Rather: "Put some dams and then some roads in east Kentucky and they'll be in business. Don't put them in and you might as well write off the mountains."

Whisman said that about 25 years ago the Army Corps of Engineers had recommended a long-range flood plan to include 14 projects on the Kentucky, Big Sandy, Cumberland and Licking rivers. Two have been completed. Three others are under construction and are still years away from completion. None of the others are past the planning stage.

"The two we've got come as a result of the '57 flood," he said. "It shocked some action. I hope we don't have to wait through seven bad floods before we get all 14."

They completed the telegram and Gov Combs immediately approved it. It was rushed off to Washington.

"The current programs of the federal government," the wire said, "are completely inadequate to solve the essential problem. This flood heap- ed on the floods of 1946 and 1957, has exhausted all available remedies, both state and federal. In the face of the present damage our present

state and federal programs cannot even cope with the immediate problems of the disaster."

It asked for "acceleration of currently authorized flood control projects through congressional appropriation, congressional authorization of additional projects required to complete the flood control plan for this region (and) more intensive action and expansion for various programs in terms required to meet the long-term solution of chronic problems in the region."

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DEBRIS COVERS STREET—Line of automobiles in Harlan area after heavy flooding of this eastern Kentucky city. (UPI)

Arab-American Relations Have Been Favorable, Clubs Are Told

Arab-American relations, as old as this nation, have always been of a favorable nature except for a slight deterioration in 1947 when the United States supported the creation of the State of Israel "in the Arab homeland of Palestine," Farouk A. Mawlawi, director of the Arab Information Center in San Francisco, told two valley audiences Tuesday.

Speaking before the Crater Lions club at noon and the Medford Lions in the evening, Mawlawi traced the history of relationships between the two countries.

The contributions of American humanitarians and philanthropists during the second half of the 19th century created the favorable atmosphere in which the fine relationship between the Arab nation and the United States flourished, Mawlawi stated.

Looked Up To America
The Arabs looked up to America because of the anti-colonial background of the country. The Arabs have struggled for freedom and independence under foreign rule, chiefly British and French, and are now striving to bring about unity of the Arab states, the man who now represents the league of Arab states declared.

The nationalist movement which is the main force in the Arab world is a movement based on the desire to raise

the standard of living and provide better conditions, Mawlawi explained. It is important, he added, for people who want to understand the movement to realize that it is anti-communist, the best safeguard against any communist infiltration of the area.

The creation of the State of Israel resulted in the displacement of more than a million Arabs, who became refugees and continue to be so, their representative said. (The Arab Information Center is an agency of the League of Arab States, including 13 independent Arab countries).

Relations Improving
American-Arab relations have been improving consistently during the last few years as a result of the better understanding of the Arab world and America, particularly due to a more accurate evaluation of popular Arab leaders like President Nasser, Mawlawi maintained.

Recent developments in the Arab world show a tendency toward unification of the United Arab Republic, Syria and Iraq. It is hoped that this step will provide a nucleus for a total Arab unity from Morocco on the Atlantic ocean to Kuwait in the gulf, Mawlawi concluded.

During the question and answer period, local people directed their inquiries to the role that Nasser plays in his country today. Mawlawi replied that he is the most pop-

ular of the Arab leaders and commands the support of the great majority of Arabs, regardless of where they live.

10 Years in America
Mawlawi has spent 10 years in this country. His home is in Lebanon. He speaks excellent English, having attended private American style schools in his homeland and the University of Chicago, where he received his master's degree in political science.

The American style schools in his country, he explained, are not supported by this country. The name simply indicates that the schools teach English. The public schools of Lebanon are French type, Mawlawi added, and "much tougher."

Before accepting his present position with the Arab Information Center, five months ago, Mawlawi was a member of the Lebanon delegation to the United Nations. His father, now retired, was a minister of the Moslem faith.

Before coming to Medford, Mawlawi spoke before the Portland Chamber of Commerce and continued from Medford to Grants Pass to address the Rotary club there this noon.

Assistance for Income Tax Work Available

A. G. Erickson, Portland, director of internal revenue for Oregon, has announced that additional assistance will be provided in Medford for taxpayers needing help in completing their 1962 federal income tax returns.

The office at 532 Liberty st., Medford, will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. April 8, and April 11 and 12. The telephone number is 773-6239.

TUNA BARBECUE

Barbecued tuna skillet takes only 20 minutes to make. Saute one medium onion, sliced, and one-fourth pound of mushrooms, sliced, in two tablespoons of butter or margarine in skillet for five minutes. Stir often. Add one-third cup each of catsup and chili sauce and two (8 1/2 to 7 ounce) cans of tuna, drained and flaked. Cook 15 minutes more, stirring occasionally. Serves four to six.

Economist to Join University Staff

Eugene—One of the top-ranking economists in the nation in the field of anti-trust legislation and prosecution has been appointed to a professorship in the University of Oregon department of economics.

Dr. Corwin D. Edwards, professor of government and business at the University of Chicago, will join the faculty of the University of Oregon in September, 1963.

The appointment of Dr. Edwards, announced by President Arthur S. Flemming, is subject to confirmation by the state board of higher education.

Dr. Edwards is considered to be the leading authority in anti-trust economics and on the relationship of government and business. His is also one of the most distinguished names in the field of industrial organization.

Helicopters May Aid Logging in Alaska

Washington—(UPI)—Forest Service officials say the helicopter may open the trackless wilds of Alaska to logging.

Forest Service Chief Edward P. Cliff said in a letter to Sen. E. L. Bartlett (D-Alaska) that initial studies in helicopter logging have been completed and trials are to begin within the next few months.

"We are quite hopeful that use of the helicopter will provide a breakthrough in developing less costly access to timber in areas where road construction costs are high, on steep slopes or on erodible soils," Cliff said.

No Nagging Backache Means a Good Night's Sleep

Nagging backache, headache, or muscular aches and pains may come on with over-exertion, emotional upsets or due to day stress and strain. And folks who eat and drink unwisely sometimes suffer mild bladder irritation, with that restlessness, uncomfortable feeling.

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