

Correspondence: Colonel Prentiss, Laisew
1972 November Jr.,

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

HOTEL STERLING

WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701

717 - 829-1981

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Executive Director

November 7, 1972

Colonel Louis W. Prentiss, Jr.
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P. O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

Dear Colonel Prentiss:

This committee is one of many components of the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. Its mission is to concern itself with those elements which exert control over the flow of the Susquehanna River.

The committee, by resolution, supports the position of the Luzerne County Civil Defense Council as expressed in the November 6, 1972 letter addressed to you by General Frank Townend (Ret.), Director, Luzerne County Civil Defense, while underlining the fact that the repair, reinforcement, and strengthening of the dike system, particularly in the areas cited by General Townend, should be expedited by all possible means.

At the risk of redundancy, we are duly concerned with the fact that we may have less than a month of moderate weather and less than 3 months before the possibility of an early thaw. Under the circumstances you can appreciate our concern for the security of our Valley if factors should combine this coming spring to send the river to heights of 30 feet or more.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Morgan

Roy E. Morgan, Chairman
Flood Control Committee

REM:pa

November 14, 1972

Colonel Louis Prentiss
United States Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Colonel Prentiss:

I am advised by local engineers who are presumably informed that flooding would be diminished in the Wilkes-Barre area if the small island several hundred yards north of the North Street Bridge in Wilkes-Barre and the large island in the Susquehanna River south of the Wilkes-Barre connecting railroad bridge and opposite the Borough of Plymouth were removed. They advise me that this would accelerate the flow of the river and diminish the danger of flooding.

Has any consideration been given to such action by Army engineers?

May we hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

cc: Frank Carlucci
Roy Morgan
Tom Kiley
Andy Shaw

FLOOD VICTIM'S ACTION COUNCIL
39 North Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Colonel Louis Prentiss
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore, Maryland

Sir:

We are gratified to note that at last a public meeting has been arranged to discuss flood protection in Wyoming Valley. As you know, Flood Victim's Action Council requested just such a meeting many, many weeks ago.

Since you requested that questions be submitted in writing, previous to your scheduled meeting, we herewith comply. The following questions are uppermost in the minds of the homeowners of Wyoming Valley:

In the newspaper publicity which follows your every visit to Wyoming Valley the following statement is always made. Colonel Prentiss stated that "the work being done requires a minimum of engineering." Question one, sir, what is meant by a "minimum of engineering" and why is not a maximum of engineering being structured at once? We are in a maximum of danger from the Susquehanna--we cannot be satisfied with a minimum of engineering.

Two: At the Carlucci press conference, on the Wednesday following your receipt of the Flood Victim's Action Council resolution, you stated, that as an "extraordinary measure" plastic wrap would be placed upon the dike and sandbagged. On Friday, November 10, when the Susquehanna rose suddenly to a 17.5 ft. crest, your "extraordinary measure" was put into action. If this was done at 17.5 ft. what do you propose as your exceptionally "extraordinary measure" when the river goes to 28 or 30 ft.?

Third: On Friday, November 10, the dike at Riverside Drive received additional unscheduled compaction as hundreds of recently victimized people raced up to the dikes to watch the rise of the Susquehanna. Not once, but hourly, these people returned with fear in their hearts and with terror in their eyes. Question three: Why sir, since the dike will invariably require subsequent work, including the emplacing of sheet piling, why can this not be done at once, so that those of us who have returned to our homes do not have to live in fear?

Thus far, we have heard "minimum engineering", "extraordinary measures", and plans for spring", but not once have we heard maximum security, safety measures or structurally sound.

Once again, the Flood Victim's Action Council calls upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to heed the wishes of the people and to, at once, enforce and reinforce the Wyoming Valley Dike System.

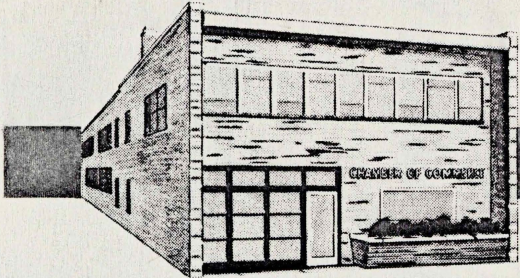
Very truly yours,

Allan J. Strassman

Mrs. Allan J. Strassman,
Chairman: DIKES, RIVERS, DAMS COMMITTEE

cc: Pres. Nixon; Sen. Schweiker, Scott; Cong. Flood; Gov. Shapp; Sec. Wilcox
Judge Rosenn; Mr. Roy Morgan; Major Cook; F. Carlucci, Jr.

Flood Control



GREATER WILKES-BARRE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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AREA CODE 717

November 14, 1972

Colonel Louis W. Prentiss, Jr.
District Engineer
U. S. Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

Dear Colonel Prentiss:

Regarding the repair and strengthening of Wyoming Valley's levee system, we share the same concern as that expressed by General Frank Townend, Director, Luzerne County Civil Defense Council, who directed a letter of November 6, 1972 to you on the subject.

Notwithstanding the present status of the levee repair program, our concern for the security of the people of our Valley centers upon restoration of the system to maximum strength, especially at the critical points where it was breached in the recent flood, and the limited favorable weather in which to do such work.

Freezing weather is near at hand. In a matter of a few months— as early as February— we could experience a thaw which will be followed by customary high water. Under the circumstances, the river could very well go to 30-feet or more, putting the previously vulnerable points to a test which has major significance to all of us.

Accordingly, we urge that the repair and strengthening program proceed with all possible speed and that in the process work on the previously breached areas will be such that their strength will remain beyond question.

Sincerely,

Edgar J. Lashford
Executive Vice President

EJL:pa

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