

FLOOD CONTROL HEARING WILL BE HELD HERE

U. S. War Department An-
nounces Public Meeting For
March 2 At City Hall

INFORMATION DESIRED

Oral Evidence Will Be Heard; Ar-
guments Asked To Be Submitted
In Writing For Records

Flood control of the Skagit river will be the subject of an important joint public hearing which has been scheduled for Mount Vernon by the U. S. War Department, it was announced this week by Lt. Col. H. J. Wilde in Seattle.

The flood control meeting will be held in the city council rooms of the Mount Vernon city hall on Tuesday morning, March 2, 1937.

Congress has directed a preliminary examination of the Skagit river and its tributaries, with the view to control of their floods.

Much information concerning the Skagit is desired by the government officials who will meet with local citizens and other representatives from various parts of the county.

Information especially sought at this meeting will be the following:

- (1) Amount and extent of damages caused by previous floods.
- (2) Probable damages of future floods.

- (3) Desired methods of controlling floods.

- (4) Probability that terms of local cooperation required by the flood control act of 1936 will be complied with.

Oral evidence will be heard, but for accuracy of record all important facts and arguments should be submitted in writing. Six copies of all letters, papers, maps and photographs submitted are desired. Written statements may be submitted at the hearing or mailed to the district engineer, U. S. Engineer office, 754 Central Bldg., Seattle.

The Flood Control Act of 1936 provides:

"That, hereafter, federal investigators and improvements of rivers and other waterways for flood control and allied purposes shall be under the jurisdiction of and shall

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be prosecuted by the war department under the direction of the secretary of war and supervision of the chief of engineers, and federal investigations of watersheds and measures for run-off and waterflow retardation and soil erosion prevention on watersheds shall be under the jurisdiction of and shall be prosecuted by the Department of Agriculture under the direction of the secretary of agriculture, except as otherwise provided by Act of Congress; and that in their reports upon examinations and surveys, the secretary of war and the secretary of agriculture shall be guided as to flood-control measures by the principles set forth in section 1 in the determination of the federal interests involved: * * *

"That, hereafter no money appropriated under authority of this Act shall be expended on the construction of any project until states, political subdivisions thereof, or other responsible local agencies have given assurances satisfactory to the secretary of war that they will (a) provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way necessary for the construction of the project, except as otherwise provided herein; (b) hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction works; (c) maintain and operate all the works after completion in accordance with regulations prescribed by the secretary of war: PROVIDED, That the construction of any dam authorized herein may be undertaken without delay when the dam site has been acquired and the assurances prescribed herein have been furnished, without awaiting the acquisition of the easements and rights-of-way required for the reservoir area."