DIKE LEADERS
PUSH FOR EARLY
RIVER CLEARING

Insist North Fork
Cutoff, Dredging
Are Flood Aids

Efforts to get the government
to clear the channel of the lower
north fork of the Skagit river are
going to be continued even though
hope for quick action was discour-
aged by officials who conferred in
Mount Vernon Tuesday with the
new Skagit River Control associa-
tion.

County Commissioner Lowell
Hughes said Wednesday the group
expected to confer with Rep. Henry
M. Jackson after the holidays.

COST COULD BE CUT

"The cost of $125,000 which they
estimated and said was too much
for any emergency action could be
cut and a lot of good still done be-
fore the next high water," Hughes
said. "And if necessary we could
chip in."

Hughes declared a dredge could
cut a proposed shortcut channel
for the mouth of the North Fork
at not too great expense. The new
channel, across the point toward
Craft island, would shorten the
river by about two miles, "getting
flood waters out into the Sound
just that much quicker," Hughes
explained.

ENGINEERS MAKING REPORT

The Seattle district Corps of En-
gineers has investigated all re-
quests received from Skagit county
and is now writing recommenda-
tions to "higher authority," Col. E.
C. Itschner, district engineer, ad-
vised The Argus yesterday.

Here for Tuesday's discussions,
Col. Itschner said he believed the
North Fork cutoff was of such a
size that it would have to be put
through as a new, rather than an
emergency project, and that would
take time. It would also require
jetties at the mouth and regular
maintenance work, he said.

MILLTOWN WORK PLANNED

Col. Itschner and Rep. Jackson
said $60,000 was being requested
for emergency dike raising at Mill-
town and dike and road raising in
the Dodge Valley vicinity.

Jackson also reported a long
range flood control project costing
$40,000 was programmed for the
Samish river. The diking district
would contribute $5000.