

Flood Study Boosted

-- Swinomish Also in New U. S. Budget

What appears to be a big advance in status of Skagit river flood control planning is contained in the federal civil works budget presented to Congress today by Pres. Kennedy, Rep. Jack Westland notified The Mount Vernon Argus from Washington, D. C.

Appropriations totaling \$1,810,000 are asked in the budget for Westland's Second congressional district, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1963.

For Skagit county civil works, the budget asks \$120,000 for dredging the Swinomish channel and revetment repairs, and \$70,000 for continuance of the Skagit flood survey.

The \$70,000 flood control request apparently is the first of two yearly expenditures, over and above the \$135,000 originally set up, and spent, for the Skagit survey. Westland said the Corps of Engineers had increased its original estimate of the

survey's cost from \$135,000 to \$275,000.

This increase indicated to Rep. Westland, he told The Argus, that the Corps of Engineers may find there is a favorable benefit-to-cost ratio in a major flood control plan for the Skagit.

"Apparently, the Corps has decided a point of no return has been reached," Westland explained. "Otherwise, the survey would have been discontinued. Only the possibility of a favorable benefit-cost ratio would warrant expansion and continuance of the survey from the original \$135,000 to \$275,000 now. I believe this is good news for the people of Skagit county and especially those concerned with the river."

The requested Swinomish channel appropriation would be for dredging it to a depth of 12 feet below mean low water and a width of 100 feet, throughout the 11 miles from Saratoga Passage to Fidalgo bay.