

THE COURIER-TIMES

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State Turns Down Proposal For Skagit Flood District

All the fighting between the two groups of farmers in this section over the proposed organizing of a flood control district, at the request of the county commissioners, is now over, as the state attorney general has ruled that such a proposed district cannot be formed. This leaves the Skagit river bank protection project where it was when the argument started.

The quarter of a million dollars already spent by the WPA on the river banks in revetment work, will be wasted in many places, as the county commissioners refuse to maintain the work, although the government claims they agreed to do so. As a result, the revetment has been broken down in many places along the river bank, and in most cases, according to the government engineers, the damage has been caused by tows of logs hitting and breaking off the cables.

The huge sum of \$425,000 is waiting expenditure on further Skagit river bank protection work, under WPA, for the county commissioners to buy some equipment which they promised. The commissioners refuse to do this until funds are somehow provided for maintenance of the old work as well as the additional work that is contemplated. Now that the plan they suggested, has been refused by the state, the matter is where it started, and nothing will be done unless the farmers interested in protecting their lands, get together with county, state and WPA officials.

The attorney general's ruling was in reply to a letter from J. B. Fink, head of the state department of conservation and development, who referred the petition for the flood control district to him. The attorney general ruled that such a district would come under the 40-mill limit law, which makes its formation prohibitive. The proposed district, if organized under the 1937 law, would be approved by the state, but would have no limit to the local improvement tax which would be levied on all property in the district.

President Frank Evans, of the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce, said today that this organization, which has been largely instrumental in trying to solve the problem of saving farms in this district from destruction, would be glad to continue to co-operate with the farmers. Now that the formation of the district is out of the question, he believes the farmers who so bitterly fought the district, should now get together with the other group, and the Chamber of Commerce will be glad to help in any conference that may be called to discuss the matter. Immediate action is necessary, if the \$425,000 is to be spent in this county, and some of the most valuable farms in the county are to be saved.