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Showers tonight; Sunday, partly cloudy; somewhat cooler.

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\$18,000,000 FLOOD CONTROL PROPOSAL IS SIDETRACKED

Pigeon Hole Action to Bring Attack From Indiana Congresswoman.

TWO RIVERS INCLUDED

U. S. Engineers Break on Plan to Halt State's Heavy Losses.

BY WALKER STONE
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—Indiana's plea for federal expenditure of \$18,000,000 to curb the semi-annual floods of the Wabash and White rivers rests uncertainly in a pigeon-hole in the offices of the federal emergency administration of public works.

But it is not likely that a spider will weave a cobweb over that pigeon-hole for Mrs. Virginia E. Jenckes, Democratic congresswoman from the Sixth Indiana district, is not allowing the public works administration to forget for a minute that the \$18,000,000 application is on file.

At times the PWA experts have acted as though they would like to forget the Wabash-White flood control project, and give all their attention to other applications for funds—projects of a type that are prima facie within the province of the federal government.

Engineers Are Divided

There is no dispute as to the economic soundness of spending \$18,000,000 to control the flood waters of the two Indiana streams. The point at issue is, "Who shall pay the bill?" It is a question of policy. The P. W. A. engineers are divided.

On group takes the position that, since the territory to be benefited lies wholly within Indiana and a section of southeastern Illinois, the cost should be assessed against the residents of the Wabash and White basins. Another group, won over by the insistence of Mrs. Jenckes that the residents of the flood-stricken area are too poor to pay the bill, contend that the federal government must step in and save the lives and property of the people who live along the two rivers.

Until that question of policy is determined, there can be no decision on the application. If the \$18,000,000 allotment is made, the P. W. A. officials realize that immediately thereafter they will receive scores of demands for similar flood-control allocations, coming from all sections of the country.

Fight for Project

To try to force a showdown on the project, Mrs. Jenckes, who has been making speeches for several days in Indiana will return to Washington next week to confer with Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes and Colonel H. M. Waite, administrator and deputy administrator of the project.

Since early in July, Mrs. Jenckes has been securing the P. W. A. with letters and briefs on the necessity of the federal government undertaking the flood control improvements. She engineered a hearing Sept. 8 before a P. W. A. subcommittee where she marshaled to the support of the project other members of the Indiana delegation and representatives of practically all of the influential groups in Indiana.

The only dissenting voice at this hearing was that of General Lytle Brown, chief of army engineers, who said, among other things, that \$18,000,000 worth of levee construction would leave many unprotected gaps along the banks of the two streams.

Co-operation Lacking, Claim

Another objection of General Brown's was that farmers and others who own property adjacent to the rivers could not be depended upon to co-operate with the government. Mrs. Jenckes met this objection by asking for and receiving hundreds of telegrams from property owners and local levee boards promising to donate to the government land for the levee right-of-way and borrow pits to supply earth for the embankments.

From Mrs. Jenckes office today the following statement was made: "I am sure that the advisory board of the federal emergency administration of public works will act favorably upon the petition of the people living in the 33,000 square miles which comprise the drainage area of the Wabash and White rivers."

Congress intended for the people to have protection against the devastating annual and semi-annual floods which have destroyed a minimum of \$2,000,000 worth of property a year for many years, and in addition have taken a toll of life. The citizens of this great and important area of our nation have offered to give the government, free of charge, rights of way and borrow pit materials and to co-operate in every possible manner.

"I have advised President Roosevelt and Secretary Ickes that the federal government can make no greater contribution toward industrial recovery of the 33,000 square miles located in one of the most important parts of the United States, than to authorize immediately an adequate and comprehensive Wabash and White rivers flood control. We are entitled to it. We have submitted all of the necessary evidence to show the necessity and requirement. We have proved that it is an emergency measure, having a direct influence on the industrial recovery of the states of Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. We patiently are awaiting action from the public works administration."

UTILITY DEAL 'HEADACHE' TO CITY OFFICIALS

Contract Is Costing Huge Sum, Assert Experts on Tax Situation.

BY AL LYNCH
Times Staff Writer

The utility contract saddled on the city under the administration of the late Samuel Lewis Shank is costing the city a huge sum annually, a study of the present budget reveals.

This contract was signed in 1925 for a ten-year period and is an inheritance of Mayor Reginald H. Sullivan and his works board. Naturally, whatever effect this contract has had on this year's budget can not be laid at the door of the incoming administration.

As the result of clauses and cross clauses in the contract, Indianapolis taxpayers are paying a bill of approximately \$375,000 a year on street lighting that does not include building and boulevard lighting on streets taken over by the park board.

Investigation Ordered

Every effort to reduce this figure or break the contract has been made since the Sullivan administration took office. With a contractual limit of only 2 per cent slash a year, this had been taken advantage of and lights have not been set out "at the mere asking of a precinct committeeman," according to works board members.

Learning of contract's cost to the taxpayers, E. Kirk McKinney, until recently works board president, ordered an investigation. However months of work by the city legal department developed no means of breaking the contract, so carefully was it drawn.

Under its terms, the city is paying 10 cents a foot annually for all excess cable used in light installation. This cable is "guaranteed to last a lifetime" and, according to engineers, costs the utility less than \$1 a foot for the "lifetime."

One Paragraph "Tricky"

One paragraph of the utility contract is described as "tricky" by engineers. This is the provision fixing the spacing of street standards at 100 feet apart. Placing of lights so close together is branded by engineering experts as "ridiculous."

Hence, the city engineers used a stagger system, placing lights 135 feet apart, thus making the thirty-five feet "excess cable." According to the city pays \$3.50 annual rental for the excess cable between standards.

Although this cost is termed excessive by engineering experts, they point out that the city saves money by not adhering to the 100-foot provision of the contract.

Few Installations Made

If 6,000 lumen lamps were installed on the 100-foot basis, the city would have to pay \$34.50 a year for the lamps in current costs alone. (A lumen is a light unit ten times the amount of a candle power.)

One hundred and fifteen 10,000-lumen lamps at an annual rental cost of \$47.50 were ordered replaced by 6,000-lumen lamps the first part of this week by the works board. This saving \$13 a lamp annually.

Few installations are being made and these only in emergencies, according to the works board.

DEATH CLAIMS HEAD OF TELEPHONE FIRM

Co-Founder of International Company Succumbs in French City.

PARIS, Oct. 7.—Hernand Behn, president and co-founder of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, died today at St. Jean de Lu. He had been critically ill four weeks. He was 53.

ROOSEVELT TO SEE SERIES AGAIN TODAY

Attendance Is Scheduled Despite Press of Activities.

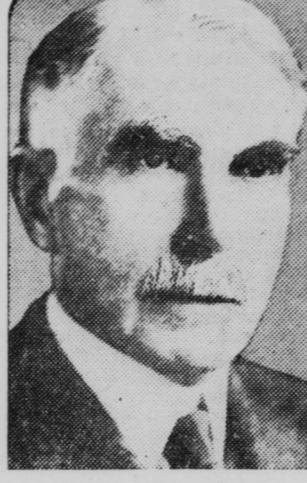
WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—President Roosevelt was expected to attend the world series game today in the midst of a crowded schedule of activities.

The press of affairs caused him to cancel plans to attend yesterday's world series game.

Times Index

Amusement Pages	6
Book-A-Day	12
Bridge	12
Brown Column	4
Church News	12
Classified	10
Comics	11
Crossword Puzzle	12
Curious World	12
Dietz On Science	12
Editorial	12
Financial	4
Fishing	9
Modern Gold Rush—A Series	12
Serial Story	11
Sports	8
Talbert Cartoon	4
Vital Statistics	9
Woman's Page	5

U. S. SENATOR DIES



Senator Porter Dale

By United Press

ISLAND POND, Vt., Oct. 7.—United States Senator Porter Hinman Dale, 66, of Vermont, died at his home here late last night after an illness of several months.

Senator Dale, a Republican, served in the house from 1915 to 1923, when he was elected to the senate for the unexpired term of the late Senator Dillingham.

He was re-elected in 1926, and again in 1932, when he was elected to the senate for the unexpired term of the late Senator Dillingham.

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