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# FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS, AUTHORIZING NAME CHANGES

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[No. 87-24]

## HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FLOOD CONTROL

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

**H.J. Res. 417**

TO DESIGNATE THE LAKE FORMED BY TERMINUS DAM ON THE KAWEAH RIVER IN CALIFORNIA AS LAKE KAWEAH

**H.R. 9243**

TO AMEND THE CIVIL FUNCTIONS APPROPRIATION ACT, 1952, IN ORDER TO DESIGNATE THE RESERVOIR CREATED BY THE JOHN H. KERR DAM AS BUGGS ISLAND LAKE

**H.R. 9320**

AUTHORIZING THE CHANGE IN NAME OF THE BEARDSTOWN, ILL., FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT, TO THE SID SIMPSON-BEARDSTOWN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

MAY 9 AND 10, 1962

Printed for the use of the Committee on Public Works



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STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

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## FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS, AUTHORIZING NAME CHANGES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1962

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FLOOD CONTROL,  
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., in room 1302, New House Office Building, Hon. Clifford Davis, chairman of the subcommittee, presiding.

MR. DAVIS. The committee will be in order.

We will take up House Resolution 417, by Mr. Hagen of California, to designate a lake formed by Terminus Dam, Kaweah River, Calif., as Lake Kaweah.

(H. J. Res. 417 follows:)

[H. J. Res. 417, 87th Cong., 1st sess.]

JOINT RESOLUTION To designate the lake formed by Terminus Dam on the Kaweah River in California as Lake Kaweah

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the reservoir formed by Terminus Dam across the Kaweah River in California, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944, is hereby designated as Lake Kaweah. Any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States in which such reservoir is referred to shall be held to refer to such reservoir by the name of Lake Kaweah.*

### STATEMENT OF MARK GURNEE, CHIEF, OPERATIONS DIVISION OFFICE, CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

MR. DAVIS. Mr. Mark Gurnee, the Chief of the Operations Division of the Office of the Chief of Engineers is here.

Will you tell us the reason for the designation of this lake, please, sir?

MR. GURNEE. Mr. Chairman, it is our normal practice to designate the name of our projects in our project documents.

When those have been accepted by the Congress we consider that they have the force of law. We do not propose the change of the names of any of our projects as a rule.

This change has been proposed by Mr. Hagen of California, and we prefer to take no position either for or against the name change.

MR. DAVIS. What is the name now assigned to it?

MR. GURNEE. The name now is "Terminus," sir.

MR. DAVIS. Terminus?

MR. GURNEE. The names of our projects are normally based on some nearby geographic feature.

MR. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, could I comment on this?

Mr. DAVIS. Yes, sir.

Mr. BALDWIN. The river is the Kaweah River and, therefore, the naming of the lake "Lake Kaweah" would be in keeping with the name of the river.

I have talked with Mr. Hagen on this bill, and he says the overwhelming desire of the local people is that the lake be named "Lake Kaweah" although the dam would be named "Terminus Dam."

Mr. DAVIS. It would remain and the lake would be Lake Kaweah.

Mr. KUNKEL. Is that an Indian name?

Mr. BALDWIN. Yes, sir, it is an Indian name.

Mr. GRAY. There is no money involved in that, so that would not hurt anything.

Mr. DAVIS. Thank you very much.

You have one on H.R. 9243, by Mr. Abbitt, to designate the reservoir created by John H. Kerr Dam, Va.-N.C., as Buggs Island Lake.

(H.R. 9243 follows:)

[H.R. 9243, 87th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL To amend the Civil Functions Appropriation Act, 1952, in order to designate the reservoir created by the John H. Kerr Dam as Buggs Island Lake

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the last proviso in the paragraph having the subheading "Rivers and Harbors and Flood Control" which follows the center heading "Corps of Engineers" in the Civil Functions Appropriation Act, 1952 (65 Stat. 617), is amended to read as follows: " Provided further, That the dam portion of the project formerly known as the 'Buggs Island Reservoir, Virginia and North Carolina' shall hereafter be designated as the 'John H. Kerr Dam' and the reservoir created by such dam shall hereafter be designated as the 'Buggs Island Lake'."*

Mr. DAVIS. We will now take up H.R. 9243.

Mr. GURNEE. The same comments that I made on the other project are also pertinent here.

I could also add that in our original project document this project was called the Buggs Island project, and it was changed by an act of Congress to the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir in the Civil Functions Appropriation Act of 1952.

Again, we have no objection or no preference, pro or con.

Mr. DAVIS. In other words, the name "John H. Kerr Dam" would remain?

Mr. GURNEE. That is correct, under this bill.

Mr. DAVIS. Under this bill?

Mr. GURNEE. And the lake——

Mr. DAVIS. But the reservoir, created by it, would be known as the Buggs Island Lake, and that is the name you have always carried in the corps heretofore?

Mr. GURNEE. Prior to the 1950 act that was the name that we used.

Mr. DAVIS. Any questions?

Mr. KUNKEL. Who is the Member of Congress on this?

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Abbitt.

Mr. KUNKEL. Well, he introduced it, did he not?

Mr. DAVIS. Yes, sir.

Thank you very much.

(The following was furnished for insertion:)

## STATEMENT OF HON. W. M. ABBITT, OF VIRGINIA, BEFORE THE FLOOD CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE WITH REFERENCE TO H.R. 9243

Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege to present my views on H.R. 9243, which I introduced last year at the close of the 1st session of the 87th Congress. The purpose of this bill is quite simple: it would amend the Civil Functions Act of 1952 in order to designate the reservoir created by the John H. Kerr Dam as Buggs Island Lake.

The Department of the Army and the Department of Interior have interposed no objections to the bill and I frankly have heard no objections to it. The local people are very much in favor of this proposal and in the pursuit of clarity, I believe it would be a very fine contribution to the public interest.

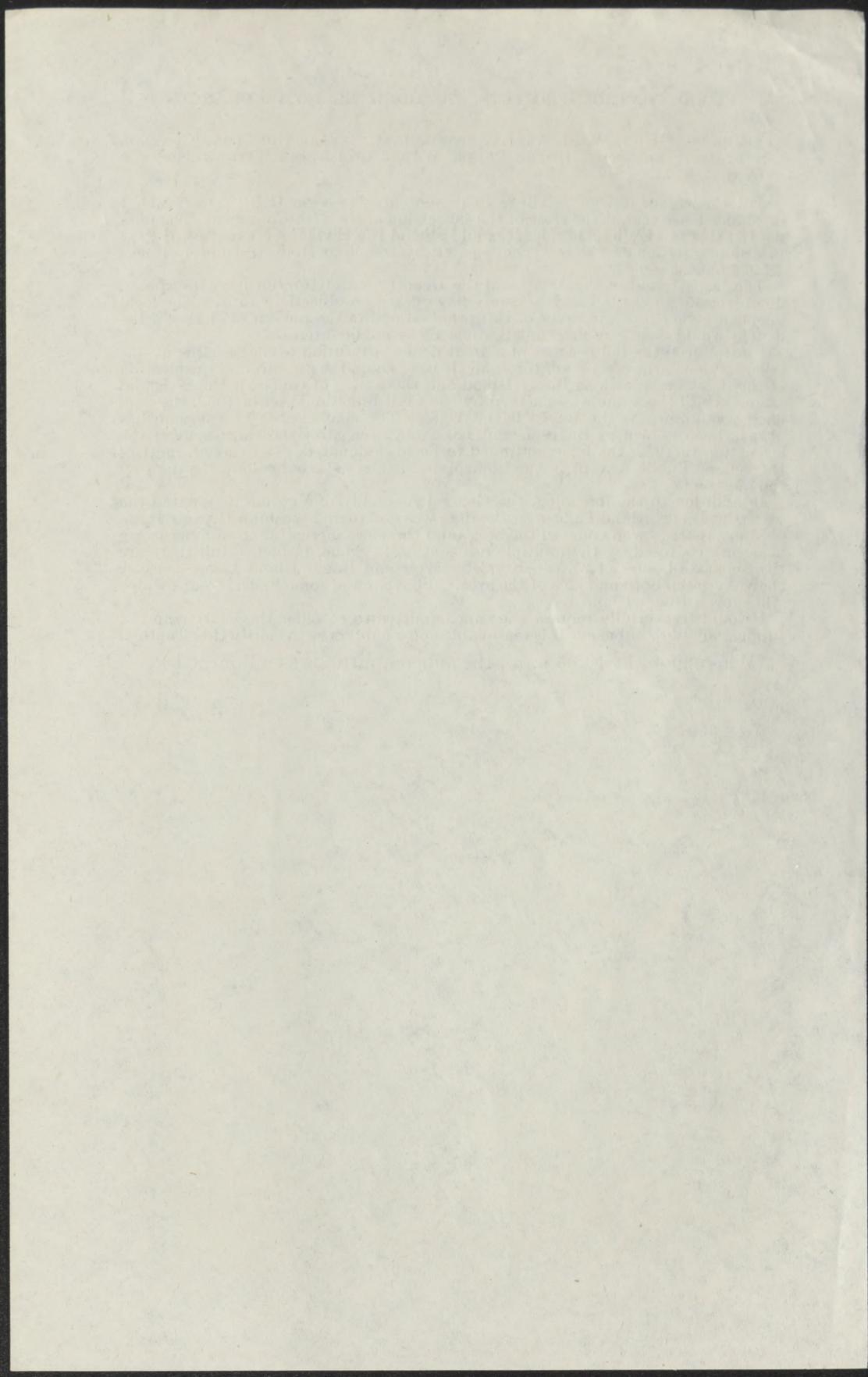
I introduced the bill because of a great deal of confusion over the name of this lake. Prior to the erection of the John H. Kerr Dam, the area around the location of the dam was known as Buggs Island and there was, of course, a Buggs Island Lake. Until the name was changed by the Civil Functions Act of 1952, the dam itself was known as the Buggs Island Dam. The lake created by the dam has always been known as Buggs Island Lake and even after the enactment of the legislation in 1952, the lake continued to be so designated, even though most of the general public (except in the immediate vicinity) started calling the dam by the new name.

In addition to the foregoing, the General Assembly of Virginia designated the waters as Buggs Island Lake after the dam was designated the John H. Kerr Dam.

Many tourists who come to the area (and these are increasing in number every year) are confused by the multiple designations. Some, in fact, think there are two separate bodies of water—Kerr Reservoir and Buggs Island Lake—because they have seen both on maps of the area. I have found some Federal maps which still show a Buggs Island Lake.

I would respectfully request the subcommittee to consider this matter and to support my bill. I believe it is reasonable and would serve to clarify the situation.

(Whereupon, at 10:35 a. m., the subcommittee was adjourned.)



## FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS, AUTHORIZING NAME CHANGES

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THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1962

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FLOOD CONTROL,  
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:35 a.m. in room 1302, New House Office Building, Hon. Clifford Davis (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. DAVIS. We will take up H.R. 9320, a bill introduced by Mr. Mack, and similar bills, H.R. 9359 by Mr. Price and H.R. 9412 by Mr. Findley.

(H.R. 9320 follows:)

[H.R. 9320, 87th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL Authorizing the change in name of the Beardstown, Illinois, flood control project, to the Sid Simpson-Beardstown flood control project

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Beardstown flood control project, Illinois River, Illinois, authorized by the Flood Control Act of May 17, 1950, in accordance with the provisions of House Document Numbered 332, Eighty-first Congress, shall hereafter be known and designated as the Sid Simpson-Beardstown flood control project, in honor of the late Representative Sid Simpson. Any law, regulation, document, or record of the United States in which such project is designated or referred to under the name of the Beardstown, Illinois, flood control project, shall be held and considered to refer to such project by the name of Sid Simpson-Beardstown flood control project.

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Mack, we welcome you this morning.

### STATEMENT OF HON. PETER F. MACK, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. MACK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee.

I introduced this bill last year to name the Beardstown flood control project after our late and esteemed colleague, Sid Simpson of Illinois.

Sid Simpson, as most of you recall, served in the House of Representatives for 16 years. He served as chairman of the District of Columbia Committee. He was ranking committee member of the Agriculture Committee, and I think that he devoted a lot of his time to flood control projects throughout the entire country.

He served at one time as president of the National Rivers and Harbors Conference, and he was one man that was in favor of flood control not only in his congressional district but throughout the entire country.

I think it would be, indeed, appropriate to name a project in his honor, and it would be an appropriate tribute in memory of our late colleague.

I do not intend to take the time of the committee to go into the details of all of his accomplishments but, as you probably recall, he was the sponsor of the bill which authorized the Beardstown flood control project and this project is now being completed.

It is a project which protects the people of Beardstown, Ill., a town of 6,700, from the devastating floods that occurred along the Illinois River throughout all of these years.

It protects some 15,000 acres of land in this area.

I understand that you have favorable reports from all of the Government agencies. However, one of the departments suggested that the name be shortened, and I would have no objection if we changed the name to the "Sid Simpson flood control project."

Now, Mr. Chairman, since reference was made a little earlier to Abraham Lincoln, I would like to say that this flood wall is along the east bank of the Illinois River, just below the place that the historic Sangamon flows into the Illinois, and since Sid Simpson also shared with me in representing Abraham Lincoln land, he represented the New Salem State Park area, I think it is especially appropriate to name this project after our late colleague.

I, perhaps, should go off the record for this comment, if you will permit me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Off the record.

(Off the record discussion.)

Mr. BALDWIN. Could I ask a question, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Mr. Baldwin.

Mr. BALDWIN. Mr. Mack, following up on this point, whether the bill should be amended to drop the word "Beardstown," now, you have commented on the recommendation of the Department of the Interior that it is customary for them in practice to just shorten the name and refer to the project by the last name, and you have said that you would have no objection to the dropping of the word "Beardstown."

On this kind of bill we are trying to do what the author of the bill wants to have done.

I would agree with the objective of trying to get a title that would actually mean that in practice it would be referred to as the Simpson flood control project.

Would you, therefore, be in favor of our amending the bill to simplify the wording and call it the Sid Simpson flood control project?

Mr. MACK. Yes; I would be. It would conform with my ideas.

I think it would be improper to drop off the first name, certainly in this case, and if the objective is to shorten the name I very strongly support the idea of calling it the Sid Simpson flood control project.

Mr. BALDWIN. Thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. No further questions?

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Mr. Auchincloss.

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. I would like to make a brief statement here because I served with Sid Simpson on the District Committee for a number of years, and I believe he was a member of this committee also.

He was a fine Congressman, conscientious and able. He made a host of friends.

I think it is most fitting that his memory should be perpetuated in this manner.

I am very much in favor of this legislation.

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Mr. Davis.

Mr. DAVIS. I should like to join with my good friend, Mr. Auchincloss, and others in suggesting that Sid Simpson was not only an able legislator but he was one of the most lovable men I have ever known.

I counted him among my warmest Republican friends, and I say this in all seriousness, that I am delighted that a Democrat, Mr. Mack, has introduced this bill.

When I first come to Congress, more than 22 years ago, I recall that a Republican in Missouri sponsored, over a long period of years, the establishment of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. And I think that is a compliment to the spirit of this country when a man can forget partisanship and recognize high character and ability.

I knew Sid Simpson in his lifetime, his family also, and I am delighted to be able to support this bill introduced by Mr. Mack, Mr. Price, and Mr. Findley, and certainly with the fine statement made by Mr. Mack this morning.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. May the Chair say that Mr. Mack has done a splendid piece of work in promoting this bill.

It is plainly a justifiable expression of only the highest respect and esteem and deep affection of all of the Members of the House on both sides of the aisle in so honoring the name of a great Congressman, a great American, and a gentleman, and a true friend and real man, the late beloved Sid Simpson.

We have at this time also a statement by Mr. Paul Findley, which we shall include in the record at this point.

(The statement by Mr. Findley follows:)

STATEMENT BY PAUL FINDLEY, REPUBLICAN, ILLINOIS, BEFORE THE HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE, MAY 10, 1962

My bill, H.R. 9412, is a small effort to pay proper tribute to the effective work of the late Congressman Sid Simpson in helping to bring about the flood-control project at Beardstown.

It would be entirely fitting to change the name as suggested. It is my privilege to represent the district which Mr. Simpson served with such distinction for 16 years. It has also been my privilege to follow through with some of the final details involved in completion of the Beardstown project, including the addition of some much-needed pumping equipment.

Identifying the Simpson name with the Beardstown project is not only fitting, it is entirely proper.

It is also my privilege to follow the late Mr. Simpson on the Committee on Agriculture, where he left a vast reservoir of good will.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. We also have a statement by Mr. Melvin Price which will be included in the record at this point.

(The statement of Mr. Price follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. MELVIN PRICE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Chairman, it has been my pleasure to join with my colleague from Illinois, Mr. Mack, in the sponsorship of legislation to change the name of the Beardstown flood control project to the Sid Simpson flood control project.

All of you who have had the privilege of serving in the House with Sid Simpson can understand my strong feeling in this matter.

I was very close to Sid Simpson through his years in the House and on many occasions he and I made the trip back and forth from Washington to Illinois by automobile and sometimes by train. On these occasions we came to know each other very intimately and I grew to have the greatest respect and highest esteem for Sid and his principles.

It was my privilege also to have worked with him on one or two of the flood control projects that were so vital to his own district and which in some manner affected my district which adjoined his.

I know of his great efforts in the promotion of these projects, and I think it is fitting that one of them to which he devoted so much time should bear his name as a tribute to his industry and the unselfish labors he put forth in the interest of flood control.

I most respectfully urge favorable consideration of this suggested change of the name of the Beardstown, Ill., flood control project to the Sid Simpson flood control project.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Schwengel.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I think it ought to be pointed out, and I think the gentleman from Illinois will agree, that Mr. Simpson's wife served with great distinction after his death and had an interest in these things that you mentioned that Mr. Simpson represented when he was in Congress.

I would like the record to show that her name is identified with his in connection with this matter.

Mr. MACK. Thank you very much. That is true. Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Mack.

Mr. MACK. I would like to only say that my father and Sid Simpson were in business, the same business, some 45 years ago, and they were very close friends throughout their lifetime, and I became acquainted with Sid Simpson when I first came to the Congress.

He was the first Member of Congress that I went to to consult with about the responsibilities here.

And my father and Sid were lifetime friends and ironically, Sid passed away 2 weeks before my father passed away.

So I do have a real interest in this.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. MACK. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, our friend and colleague, Mr. Mack.

No further questions or comments?

If there is no objection from the Corps of Engineers and other agencies as to the hearing on this bill and all of the other bills, they are completed.

Mr. DAVIS. I move we go into executive session.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will call the full Committee of the House Public Works into executive session.

(The hearing of the Subcommittee on Flood Control adjourned at 11:35 a.m., the members of the Public Works Committee of the House of Representatives to reconvene in executive session.)