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Comments by Representative Burdick Regarding the Hoover Commission, June 15, 1949

Usher L. Burdick

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REPORT OF THE HOOVER COMMISSION STRIKES A SNAG.

I was in hope that the Hoover Commission's plan of re-organization of the government would be adopted. It was merely a hope, however, for I knew what a powerful lobby this report would have to hurdle before becoming law. I have pointed out to the people of this country, time after time, that the Corps of Army Engineers is supported in Congress by a powerful lobby. I pointed out, some time ago, that in building the Garrison Dam, the Army Engineers paid no attention to the law creating the dam. I said they were arrogant, unconcerned with the wishes of the people and had an idea that they were bigger than Congress and bigger than the President. Some thought I was too much alarmed over this agency of the government. The facts now show that I understated the situation, and that the Corps of Engineers are entrenched in Civil Functions deeper than I first thought. The truth is coming out, and coming out fast. Who composes this army lobby is coming out also.

As it appears now, the Corps of Army Engineers will be exempted from the provisions of the Hoover Commission's plan and will be enabled to hand onto the Civil Functions, which the Hoover Commission advised against. It is almost certain that if any bill is passed at this session, putting into effect the recommendations of the Hoover Commission, it will have to pass in such a way that these engineers cannot be reached by the terms of the bill. I say to you that this Army Engineer's lobby is stronger than I at first thought. If it is strong enough to perpetuate itself in power by the approval of Congress, then the people back home will know that no plan can be put through which interferes with the Army Engineers. They are strong enough to determine any legislation that applies to them, regardless of the people. Unlimited power during war times has had the effect of building in this country a military dictatorship which is going to be difficult to stop.

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RELEASE

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RELEASE

Congressman Usher L. Burdick Comments:

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I was in hope that the Commission's plan of re-organization of the government would be adopted. It was made a hope, however, I know what a powerful lobby this report would have to have before becoming law. I have pointed out to the people of this country, time after time that the Corps of Engineers supported in Congress a powerful lobby. I pointed out, at the time ago, that building the Garrison Dam, the Army Engineers said no study to the law creating the dam. I also they were arrogant, unconcerned with the people and their interests. I also they were more than Congress and the President. Some thought a too much over this agency, the government. The facts now show that the situation, and that the Corps of Engineers are entrenched in their functions more than I first thought. The truth is coming out, and showing out who compose this Army lobby is coming out also.

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Hoover Report