Reference is made to the petition you signed last fall with respect to the flood problem in the Cache River Drainage District, the need for enlargement of the Post Creek Cut-Off, and the enlargement of the existing drainage structure through the Karnak Levee. For some time I have been following this matter diligently through the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Department of the Army. The following is an excerpt from the latest report submitted to me in this connection:

"On February 16, 1959, the District Engineer, St. Louis, met with local interests of the Lower Cache River area at Cairo, Illinois, to discuss the flood problems in the Lower Cache River basin. *** Some concern was expressed over obtaining relief from the flood conditions just west of the Cache River Levee by enlargement of the drainage outlet through this levee. There is, however, a conflict of interest between landowners on the east and west sides of the levee regarding such work. Actually, enlargement of the drainage outlet would permit the drainage from the Belknap District to enter Post Creek in greater quantity than heretofore, which would lessen the effectiveness of that outlet to other landowners. This aspect will have to be satisfactorily resolved by the local parties concerned.

"The Cache River Drainage District is the local agency responsible for the Cache River project. The drainage outlet desired has not been approved by the officials of the Drainage District. Such approval would have to be obtained before any work could be done.

"In addition, you will recall that previous correspondence indicated that the Cache River Drainage District has been delinquent in its maintenance commitments for the Reevesville-Cache River project. As indicated in that previous correspondence, correction of that delinquent maintenance is necessary before any new work can be accomplished."

Let me reassure you of my interest in these problems and of my desire to cooperate to the fullest extent.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen