MTST  OAKLEY DAM AND RESERVOIR PROJECT
(July 15, 1969)

Civic:  See MPK

Thank you for writing me expressing interest in the Oakley Dam and Reservoir project.

Because of some opposition, the Army Engineers revised the original plan and offered fourteen alternative ways to construct the project. They then asked the public for their views by holding three hearings during the month of May in Springfield, Decatur, and Champaign. All interested parties were invited to attend.

At the conclusion of these hearings, representatives from the State of Illinois, the University of Illinois, the City of Decatur, and the Corps of Engineers went into every aspect of the project. As a result, an agreement was signed by the representatives of the three Illinois groups. The Corps of Engineers is currently evaluating the alternative plans to determine whether they comply with the financial feasibility standards.

With reference to making Allerton Park a National Landmark, this is not a matter of legislation, but is within the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior and its Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen