

## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

### Section 37, Pages 1081 - 1110

Glenn Dale Stockwell Sr. (1901-1964) was a life-long resident of the Blue River Valley. He lived in the vicinity of Randolph and Leonardville, near the area flooded by Tuttle Creek Dam. In 1951, Glenn Stockwell became president of the Blue Valley Study Association and began coordinating opposition to the Dam. After heavy rains caused major floods in Kansas in 1951, advocates of Tuttle Creek pushed for its immediate funding and construction while opponents also intensified their efforts. The earliest item is a 1944 letter from the Corps of Engineers outlining the history and current status of the Tuttle Creek project. Other early items relate to the activities of the Blue Valley Study Association under the leadership of J. A. Hawkinson. The bulk of this correspondence, however, dates from the time Stockwell became president of the group in July 1951. Quite varied, it includes letters from conservationists, industry supporters, Kansas politicians, U.S. Congressional leaders, and the Eisenhower administration, among others; letters of advice from Stockwell; and carbon copies of letters sent by his co-workers.

Date: 1944-1957

Callnumber: Glenn D. Stockwell Coll. #81

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## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

Shhwartz - 2

I have previously written that I believe that all costs and adverse damages should be included in the evaluation of a project. The adverse effects should be calculated in the same manner as are the benefits. The Corps simply uses the land acquisition costs as the public cost of a reservoir site. Yet they and the Bureau of Reclamation use indirect and national benefits to justify projects. As an alternate method of establishing public cost of a reservoir site, one could use the cost of bringing into being a like production by reclamation. It is certainly inconsistent for the Executive Department to recommend the reclamation of land by irrigation at a cost of several thousands of dollars per acre and at the same time to only evaluate the public cost of a reservoir site at the land acquisition cost.

Another point I wish to emphasize is that the construction of Tuttle Creek will foreclose the comprehensive development of the watershed. Tuttle Creek will pre-empt all downstream flood control benefits. It will be almost impossible to justify the upstream work without the justification of reduction of 10-25 year floods downstream. Furthermore any upstream work contemplated under the Hope-Aiken Watershed Act and the administrative ruling will require a large local contribution in costs. The loss of the high value main valley will reduce the tax base necessary to provide the local funds. The valley lands would have benefited and would have been taxed to build the structures. Now if Tuttle Creek is initiated the pattern will be frozen and then upstream work will not and cannot be accomplished.

I realize that the Bureau of the Budget did not incorporate recommendation for funds in the Budget but that Congress evidently insisted upon the initiation of Tuttle Creek dam. However I maintain that the testimony of General Potter before the two House Committees was the deciding factor. The Corps of Engineers are a part of the Executive Department so the Executive Department must be blamed for not developing alternate plans. The Corps has long been a strong advocate of their own theory of resource development. General Potter in his first speech after assuming office as Division Engineer referred to the critics of their plan as "nit-pickers". I believe that it is within the province of the Executive Department under present laws to develop sound procedures and standards of justification. Under proper standards of justification, projects like Tuttle Creek would never reach the authorization stage, let alone the appropriation stage in Congress.

The action of the 82nd Congress in providing the initial \$5,000,000 appropriation crystallized the public opinion of the First Congressional District of Kansas and resulted in the election of Howard S. Miller in 1952. I believe that the action of the 84th Congress will crystallize the public opinion of the entire State of Kansas in a like manner. I am enclosing some newspaper clippings that show the extent of editorial comment. The people of Kansas are beginning to realize that no river valley is safe from the designs of the Corps of Army Engineers. They saw how the Corps can carry their request over the desire of the local Congressman and over the desire of the Executive Department. Elections are a poor way of deciding questions of resource development but sometimes that is the only way.

I wish that you would see that my letter is laid down before those who might possibly review the initiation of Tuttle Creek dam. Too, I advise you that the people of this area and of the entire State will protest against any further continuation of the proposed reservoir system for the Kansas River Basin.

Yours truly,



## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

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### United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

July 29, 1955

Dear Friend:

I have received hundreds of letters and telegrams from the folks in Kansas both for and against the Tuttle Creek Project. It is physically impossible for me to answer each one of them personally. I am therefore taking this means of submitting to you my views on this important project.

At the outset of my reply permit me to make two observations concerning which I think neither of us will disagree.

First, there never has been any question in my mind about the honesty and sincerity of those citizens who opposed the Tuttle Creek Dam.

Second, I am as firmly convinced as anyone else that Kansas needs a flood control program. I am just as firmly convinced that such a program should be comprehensive in scope including the best features of the plans proposed by the Corps of Army Engineers, the watershed and soil conservation plan of the Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior.

The whole controversy boils down, as far as my part in it is concerned, to my own belief - also honest and sincere - that a watershed program, as effective as it may be, could not by itself handle the control of flood waters such as we experienced in 1951.

Prior to the time I made my first request for \$5-million for the Tuttle Creek Dam, I received a letter from the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture containing this significant statement:

"In the event that Tuttle Creek Dam is not built, the watershed program, including the small retarding structures, would provide significant benefits from the smaller floods in the main stream flood plain below the dam site. However, the reduction in discharge for a major flood such as that of 1951 WOULD BE RELATIVELY SMALL AS COMPARED WITH THE EFFECTS OF A MAJOR RESERVOIR SUCH AS TUTTLE CREEK. HENCE OUR PROGRAMS ARE NOT, IN ANY SENSE, A SUBSTITUTE FOR MAJOR FLOOD CONTROL RESERVOIRS OF THE KIND PROPOSED BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR PURPOSES OF PROTECTING DOWNSTREAM URBAN AREAS."

I have always supported watershed projects and shall continue to work for them so long as I am a Member of the United States Senate. However, the function of the watershed is to hold water where it falls but water which gets into a river has gone entirely beyond the control of such construction.



## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

-2-

In 1951 when water was spreading over Kansas I received thousands of letters and telegrams asking that Tuttle Creek Dam be constructed as quickly as possible. Newspapers which now oppose the dam favored its construction in 1951.

But, memories are short. Many of the folks who beseeched me for immediate action then seem to have forgotten the terrible tragedy which befell thousands upon thousands of fine Kansas citizens.

They seem to forget that in Kansas City some 30,000 people were made homeless, some 4,000 homes, many factories and businesses were destroyed. In that one city alone the Federal Government moved in 1,000 trailers and spent about \$350,000 making them ready for use by 5,000 victims.

Yes, many of those persons who wired or wrote me in 1951 seem to forget that in Topeka the flood drove approximately 29,000 people out of their homes and damaged or completely destroyed 8,000 residences.

They have forgotten Lawrence, where more than 2,000 persons were evacuated from 550 homes; Bonner Springs where the gauge reading was 38.58 feet; Manhattan where property loss was more than \$17-million and the water practically covered the business area of the town; Silver Lake where the entire business district was flooded and the residents forced to sleep on hills west of town; Rossville, and Wamego.

In four short years they have lost sight of the fact that in Kansas 40,000 people were made homeless, 700 bridges were lost or destroyed, 2,500,000 acres of cropland and 619,000 acres of non-cropland were inundated, involving 20,248 farms, and that more than 500,000 acres of rich bottomland were littered with silt, sand deposits, debris or otherwise damaged. I have not forgotten.

Apparently they can't remember that there were little communities which suffered devastation as great in property loss as that wreaked upon Udall this year when it was struck by a tornado.

There is another angle to the picture also for those opponents of Tuttle Creek who protest its cost. The 1951 cost to the Government in property damage, repairs and potential taxes was \$412,846,000 and to the State, Counties and Cities \$74,980,000.

Yes, the opponents of the dam seem to forget all this and, what is equally important, they fail to remember that these unfortunate victims received no compensation whatsoever from the Government for their losses.

They got back absolutely nothing and those who have not already moved to new areas know that until Tuttle Creek is completed and adequate protection is provided the threat of another flood hangs constantly over them like a vulture waiting to swoop down and grab its prey.

In contrast to this story of utter misery and despair what is the prospect for the landowners who will be displaced by the Tuttle Creek Dam?

Will they be compensated? The answer is yes. If the prices paid in 1952 are an index, the owners will be treated generously. The average price paid in 1952 was \$100 to \$325 per acre for cultivated land and \$20 to \$100 per acre for pasture land.





## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

-3-

I appreciate the fact that no amount of money could ever compensate the Blue Valley residents for the sentimental value of their property; but their plight is not so severe considered in the light of flood victims who were wiped out completely.

Not only will the Blue Valley residents get a good price for their land and homes, but, in addition, owners and tenants of any parcel of land acquired for Tuttle Creek Dam will get up to 25 percent of the appraised value to meet their relocation expenses in addition to the amount paid for the property by the Government.

I was instrumental in securing passage of a proviso in Public Law 534 which specifies such reimbursement for the "owners and tenants of land, used by such owners and tenants for residential or agricultural purposes, to be acquired for any public works project of the military department concerned for expenses and other losses and damages incurred by such owners and tenants, respectively, in the process and as a direct result of the moving of themselves and their families and possessions because of such acquisition of land, which reimbursement shall be in addition to, but not in duplication of, any payments in respect of such acquisition as may otherwise be authorized by law."

Under these circumstances one cannot help but feel that some of these violent protests are not presenting the other side of the question.

Efforts have been made to compare the Blue Valley residents with the pathetic Acadians who were torn from their home land. A better comparison would be with the flood victims of 1951 who, like the Acadians, not only lost all they had but got nothing for it.

There are some groups who contend that the Blue River was not to blame for the flood of 1951. Do they deny that the Blue River was a contributing factor? And who can say that the Blue River may not have been the figurative straw that broke the camel's back?

A bath tub can be filled with water and cause no inconvenience until only a few drops are added. Then it overflows.

It is an error to believe that water making up the disastrous flood of 1951 came only from an area above its junction with the Kaw River rather than from the Blue River itself.

Part of the evidence which we examined shows that the peak flood flow of 510,000 cubic feet per second included 93,400 c.f.s. from the Blue River. It has been said time and again that the water backed up in the Blue during the flood. Now, water does not flow uphill. It is a fact that in the last eight miles, from the Rocky Ford gauge to the junction with the Kaw, the Blue River drops seven feet. This refutes comment that water backed up the Blue River.

The argument that 57,000 acres of land in the area will be perpetually flooded is not true. The construction of the dry dam makes it possible to farm thousands of acres of the land nine out of ten years in the dam area and at the

Mrs. Stockwell, there was more to this letter  
but I seemed to have lost it. This was written  
by Senator Schoeppel.



cc: James Robinson

August 2, 1955

The Honorable Clifford R. Hope  
House Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Cliff:

Enclosed clipping Leonard W. Hall.

I am not a politician.

Apparently, there is no chance the GOP will run as a conservative party in 1956.

I have an impression that the farm vote, especially in the South regardless of conservation planks that may get into party platforms would be influenced by intensive publicity 30 days before election. If pushed earlier the democrats might out brag the GOP.

Glad to see Bromfield's book "From My Experience." Harpers rates your bill one of the most important ever enacted. I am sending 10 of them to key Kansans.

Regards,

Irving Hill,  
President

sb  
Enc.





August 4, 1955

Hon. Andrew F. Schoepfel,  
United States Senator from Kansas,  
Senate Office Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Schoepfel:

Since you honored me by sending me the same letter as you wrote to the Blue Valley folks, I assume that you leave the door open for a reply. I refer to your letter in which you attempt to justify your vote and activity in favor of the Tuttle Creek Dam.

You say: "The whole controversy boils down, as far as my part is concerned, to my own belief--also honest and sincere--that a watershed program, as effective as it may be, could not by itself handle the control of flood waters such as we experienced in 1951."

Then you quote the Secretary of Agriculture as saying: "The watershed program would provide significant benefits, however the reduction in discharge for a major flood such as that of 1951 would be relatively small as compared with a major reservoir such as Tuttle Creek," etc.

I have thoroughly covered this issue in my book, "Big Dam Foolishness," giving conclusive and unquestioned proof that the distinguished Secretary of Agriculture is clear off his base. I have definitely proved that watershed treatment not only equals the impoundment functions of the big dams, but far exceeds them. In other words, when it comes to impounding flood waters, the big downstream dam, by engineering indices does not get the job done nearly as effectively as the watershed program, so say nothing of all the collateral benefit of that watershed program.

You, as a practical politician, well versed in the ins and outs of bureaucracy in Washington, know very well that this "do-not-claim" formula is dictated by the unwillingness of one bureau to clash with another bureau. I have answered this formula in my book, and have shown why it is adopted by the USDA appeasers. The bureaus like to dwell together in one big, happy family, so they "go along" with the Army Engineers, who are the most arrogant, arbitrary, ~~unreasonable~~ and powerful lobby in Washington. You, as a realistic politician, know this.

My book has been published eight months, and, though the Army Engineers and other big-dam proponents and promoters have always shown a lively and sensitive response to the opposition, going far out of their way to propagandize their own thesis, they have not tried to answer the 17 indictments in my book. Top engineers have said to me: "They don't dare, because they know they are wrong." As a matter of fact the records in the USDA itself prove beyond any doubt that the eminent Secretary of Agriculture has not gone by his own records as of the Washita Valley and other unquestioned indices, but resorts merely to a generality--a blanket technique of "we do not claim," which is meaningless. The watershed program DOES get the job of flood prevention done far better than can possibly be done by the big downstream dams. So I, for one, will continue to expose the absurdity of your position.

Sincerely yours, Elmer T. Peterson





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1955

Dear Mr. Avery:

The President told me that you had spoken to him inquiring as to the possibility of the President's impounding funds appropriated for the Tuttle Creek project, and he asked me to look into the matter for him and get in touch with you.

Because of the President's Constitutional obligation to faithfully execute the laws, I am strongly of the view that when Congress has appropriated funds for a particular project, the President cannot set aside the will of Congress and direct that no funds be spent on that project.

It is true that in the past Presidents have declined to spend funds appropriated by the Congress for a particular purpose, but I have not found any instance of this that did not relate to funds appropriated for the national defense. In this field the President, of course, has Constitutional responsibilities of his own as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Thus President Truman declined to spend funds which were appropriated by the Eightieth Congress for a seventy group air force. These national defense precedents, however, cannot, in my opinion, be used as precedents for withholding funds appropriated for a non-defense purpose.

I regret that I cannot give you a more favorable report.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

//s/ Gerald D. Morgan  
Special Counsel to the President

The Honorable William H. Avery  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

AUG 19 1955

Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, Sr.  
Randolph  
Kansas

Dear Mr. Stockwell:

Thank you for your letter of July 25, with enclosed news clippings, expressing opposition to the construction of Tuttle Creek Dam. You express the hope that the Executive Branch will review the feasibility of Tuttle Creek Dam and its relation to the entire Kansas River basin program.

The President did not recommend funds for this project in his budget for fiscal year 1956. However, the Congress has appropriated \$7.5 million to resume construction work.

Your courtesy in making known your views concerning Tuttle Creek Dam is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel M. Dodd, Acting Chief  
Resources and Civil Works Division





## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

*Will you be at State Fair?* Sept. 4, 1955

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Stockwell:

I haven't had a letter from you since the appropriation went through. I have read the Congressional Record for that day and it seemed to me like the entire omnibus bill was being passed with a sort of a "tongue-in-the-check" attitude. I was so sure that this appropriation would be stopped at the White House level. But when I read that more than 2 million dollars had been received and that contracts would be let Sept. 20, I began to worry. This is the first test of our new water resources board and it is the supreme test for Governor Hall and the Republican party.

When Andrew Schoeppel wrote me he told me he had shown your film and flood pictures and that he had had to vote "for the interest of the general public". He said "Four years have passed and nothing has been done". This is very significant.

From an outsider's viewpoint, and as a city resident who has been flooded, let me tell you how it looks to me.

I talked to Breidenthal in Washington. He said he approved of the watershed programs but the farmers wouldn't do it.

I talked to Chandler Jarvis (Winfield) State Cl. of C. flood control committee. He said the watershed legislation was important but it would take the farmers a 100 years to get the job done."

When the Kansas City Star reported the workshop in Kansas City, Kans. they quoted me as saying "How hard it is to get the farmers to organize to do anything".

This is all too true. If you folks had a Blue River watershed organization set up and ready to go, you could ask Manhattan to join in with you. Your film did not show enough of the effects of the watershed program. The Valley of the Still Waters which we got from the Salt-Wahoo watershed is a very good film and should be shown.

In the Miami Valley the Army Engineers built the dams. I believe they also built them in the Muskingham Valley. It seems to be the opinion of the general public that the soil conservation service and the Dept. of Agriculture does not have the facilities to build the smaller dams quick enough to help the flood problems and that the Corps of Engineers should build these dams.

I am sending you a copy of an article from the Hutchinson News-Herald. This may lead people to believe that the fight is over.

There seems to be the feeling that the Corps of Engineers must be saved and I do not believe that a continued opposition on that basis would be as effective as an organized program ready to go on a watershed basis.

I have wondered why the smaller creek tributaries have been organized "informally" rather than under the new state watershed legislation? Our representative in the State Legislature told me that word came down from Washington that this legislation must be passed in 1953 so these programs could get going. How much has been done in the Blue Valley?

*Reduce Types?*



## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

Many people are afraid of getting their land under federal control through the Dept. of Agriculture. But if the Blue Valley indicates its willingness to do these programs, I believe it will be most effective. Wichita has been suggesting over and over to the farmers of the CKWA that they form a watershed program but so far no one has indicated any willingness to do so.

What is the State Water Resources board doing? Col. Howse has Wichita under his thumb and so far it hasn't been too bad except we can't get him to commit himself on anything. He has stirred up everything here, even threw out the Civil Defense Council on which my husband has served since 1950. It is all politics. Some think he is planning to run against Carlson or Schoepel-- but he's a slick customer - he doesn't say. That Ninnescah dam proposition is all wrong for Wichita's water supply -- it would be dandy in connection with a watershed program.

If you women would go directly to the Corps of Engineers and make sure it is publicized, I think it would be effective. The Blue River channel should be as clean as a whistle and the banks stabilized. Surely you can find in the upper watershed many locations for dam sites which will hold back as much water as the one dam is supposed to. The move is up to the farmers -- no one else can do this -- the law was purposely set up that way to insure maximum local control.

According to the report sent in on the Blue River in 1952 I think it was, the entire cost of the upstream program for dams, dikes, diversions, grassed waterways was about 22 million. If this 7 1/2 million can be channeled for upstream work, it would stop the dam. I rather believe the Corps of Engineers is pretty sick of the Bureau of Reclamation - but of course I can't be sure.

Carlson spoke here at the Old Settler's reunion at Mulvane - The newspaper said "Senator Carlson told the crowd that control of water run-off "at its source" is a step which must be taken to conserve one of the country's most vital resources. If Kansas is to continue to grow and prosper we must begin to keep our water back here where it falls". We should take steps to impound the water, to conserve it for its vital uses".

I wish I could talk to you - there is just so much that it is hard to write it all. I was firmly convinced that the State of Kansas wanted to control its own soil and water and Mr. Metzler confirmed that belief when I talked to him a few weeks ago. I am copying several articles which you have probably seen but I wanted to be sure you had them.

I am writing General Sturgis directly and asking how this money will be used. It is a shame and disgrace to Kansas that more people are not interested. Our newspapers have been supporting "coordinated programs with big dams" editorially but both papers have published a large number of anti-Tuttle Creek dam letters.

This will be our next most important political issue. I believe the appropriation is supposed to scare you people into getting the work done on the upper watershed.

*Had more to send  
but complications arose!*

Sincerely yours,

*Ethel Kerr*





## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

HUTCHINSON NEWS HERALD  
AUGUST 1955

KANSAS CITY (AP) An allocation of about three million dollars of the 7 1/2 million voted by Congress for resumption of work on the Tuttle Creek dam in Kansas has been received by the District Army Engineers office from the chief of engineers office in Washington.

Col. E. C. Adams, district engineer, said Monday the first contract, to be advertised in about 30 days, will consist of additional concrete construction of the outlet structure at the west end of the dam on the Blue River north of Manhattan.

A major change in plans for the project also was revealed. Under a new land acquisition policy of the Dept of the Army and the Dept of the Interior, only about 29,000 acres of land will be purchased outright in the reservoir area.

At full flood pool, the reservoir would cover 53,500 acres. At one time it was estimated as much as 70,000 acres would be needed in order to square out purchase lines in a reasonable manner.

Now, however, flowage easements only will be obtained for all reservoir land above 1,100 feet mean sea level elevation, Col. Adams said. The top of the flood pool is 1,136 feet.

It was explained that this means that the affected landowners will retain ownership of their farms, with the government taking periodic easement payments to them for the right to flood their land as necessary.

Such landowners will be appraised of the probably frequency of inundation of their land, depending on its location in the reservoir for their guidance in its use as pasture or crop land.

The \$7 million dollar Tuttle Creek project, described as the key to Kansas River flood control, has been vigorously opposed by many Blue Valley residents since it was authorized in 1938. After the 1951 flood, Congress voted five million dollars to begin construction late in 1953.

One large and two small contracts were awarded and the earth embankment, to be 7,350 feet long and 136 feet high, now is about eight percent completed.

Congress failed to provide money for the project in 1953 and work was halted in January, 1954.

A security fence was built around the damsite when work was completed on the original contract. At that time engineers had purchased 4,457 acres of land at or immediately above the damsite from 19 ownerships but said they had received 130 additional offers to see which they were unable to pursue for lack of funds.



## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

In addition to further construction at the outlet works and land purchases, it is expected that another earthwork contract at the west end of the embankment will be awarded with this year's 7 1/2 million dollar fund.

Col. Adams said that as construction is resumed, many problems must be solved with individual landowners, municipalities, school districts and other agencies.

He said the engineers will begin making local contacts in such matters as early as possible and will open a real estate office in Manhattan soon.

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This will probably lead a great many readers to believe that the farmers are not continuing to work against the dam. If these farmers would only form a strong watershed association and get plans for small dams containing and equal number of acre feet of water, I do not see how the engineers could continue.

Noel Tweet, formerly with Missouri Valley Flood Control Assn. as Washington representative I believe, has taken a position with the industrial development commission of South Dakota.

E. Kerr



## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

October 17, 1955

TO ALL BLUE VALLEY RESIDENTS --

The Open House Committee makes these suggestions for our preparations for next weekend when our visitors will be here:

Let's all clean up and fix up our home premises. Painting, cutting weeds and setting our places in order will help to give our visitors a favorable impression of Blue Valley homesteads.

Since many people have underestimated the importance of the livestock business in the Valley, it is suggested that, if possible, farmers have their livestock in evidence near the highway.

All families are encouraged to put up their own homemade signs. (Welcome signs, slogan signs, informational signs, etc.) Example -  
Johnson homestead - since 1860

Visitors driving through the Valley may stop at some of the homes. Please be prepared to serve a cup of coffee if anyone should stop in. Coffee will be served in the Valley churches Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Visitors will have many questions about Tuttle Creek and the reservoir area. Please have these facts well in mind so that we will all give accurate information.

### Tuttle Creek Dam -

Cost: Estimated \$89,000,000.

This figure may double or triple if it follows the pattern of other Army Engineers projects.

### Tuttle Creek Reservoir Area -

53,500 acres inundated at full pool

Full pool elevation -- 1136 or 1140 (?)

8 towns entirely in reservoir area --

Stockdale	Cleburne	Barrett (?)
Garrison	Bigelow	Winkler
Randolph	Irving	

1 town partially in reservoir area --  
Blue Rapids

About 500 farm families

About 4,000 to 5,000 people

### Sales to government after 1952 appropriation --

45 total sales to government:

17 family sized farms

28 smaller units including:

15 homes, business buildings and vacant lots in towns

6 rural homes containing less than 12 acres

7 farms with less than 80 acres

## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

December 1, 1955.

Mr. Rowland Hughes,  
Director of the Budget,  
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Tuttle Creek Dam

Dear Mr. Hughes:

The Blue Valley Study Association, a civic group representing the Tuttle Creek reservoir and perimeter areas, wishes to renew its continuing objections to the inclusion of any request for funds for Tuttle Creek dam in the President's forthcoming budget requests.

We have been assured, in the past, by your office as to the position of the President's office on this project. We feel that the action last session by Congress does not alter the facts and does not necessarily reclassify this project into a more desirable category.

Engineering studies by the Missouri River Basin Survey Commission and the State of Kansas indicate a low priority for this project. In view of the low priority rating and in view of the increased demands from other areas for more urgent projects we feel that the President's office should not, at this time, recommend further funds for Tuttle Creek.

The State of Kansas has established a State Water Resources Board which was instructed by legislation to develop comprehensive plans for the various watersheds of the State. Freezing the pattern of major federal participation, before the State can develop plans, forecloses State comprehensive planning. The people of the Blue Valley have, through civic action, aroused the State of Kansas to assume some of the responsibilities of resource development. They have, through actions that are basic to our national philosophy, raised questions of national policy that are still unresolved. Can your office, which is a part of an administration pledged to preserving those basic philosophies, honestly recommend this project? If so, then there is small hope of minority groups, even though backed with irrefutable facts, to secure justice.

The greatest domestic problem facing our nation today is the agricultural problem. We have pointed out in previous correspondence that the Army Engineer authorized program for the Kansas river would very seriously damage the agricultural economy of the First District of Kansas, by not only destroying a large part of our Class I land, but also by disrupting the integration of our grass lands with the valley floods. We hope that your office will consider the lack of equity in a program that places burden of social and economic adjustments on an agricultural area, already under economic stress, in order to afford benefits to urban areas far removed and in a far better relative financial condition to share the costs. We feel that the Executive offices should develop alternate methods for flood loss control that would place the burden of social and economic adjustments more equitable with the incident of benefits.

Sincerely yours,

Glenn D. Stockwell, Sr.,  
Pres., Blue Valley Study Association.





cc: Mr. Glenn Stockwell  
Randolph, Kansas

Mr. Robert L. Smith  
Room 644, New England Building  
Topeka, Kansas

December 6, 1955

Mr. Rowland Hughes  
Director Bureau of the Budget  
Washington, D. C.

After consulting independent engineers and other experts, we are convinced the Tuttle Creek dam on the Blue River in Kansas, an 80 million dollar project of the Air Army Engineering Corps, is an economic injury and not a benefit.

As to its benefits, J. O. Jones, emeritus professor of hydraulic engineering, Kansas University, advises, "It will not save 10% of the benefits claimed."

The graduate soil economist of the Blue Valley states the economic loss of land yield and business in flooding this productive valley to the Nebraska line will exceed any possible benefits. Further, this first-rate human habitat will improve for centuries, while the dam life is 50 to 100 years and the upstream sedimentation will damage valley land for over 100 miles upstream. This is a natural consequence in this prairie soil. As a matter of tax revenue and for future habitat benefit to humans, we ask your best efforts to exclude funds from the budget and appropriations for Tuttle Creek dam.

Years of experience in this terrain prove conclusively that the absolute dominance of nature's laws and balances must be understood and worked with to obtain benefits for humans.

Opposition to nature by such dams will turn this watershed from an increasing fertile habitat into a comparative desert.

Irving Hill,  
President

vk

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DEC 10 1955

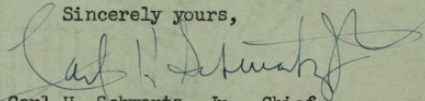
Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, Sr.  
President  
Blue Valley Study Association  
Randolph, Kansas

Dear Mr. Stockwell:

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget has requested me to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of December 1, 1955, concerning Tuttle Creek Dam in Kansas.

You may be assured that we appreciate receiving your views on this project.

Sincerely yours,



Carl H. Schwartz, Jr., Chief  
Resources and Civil Works Division





THE LAWRENCE PAPER COMPANY  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 19, 1955

Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, Sr.  
Randolph, Kansas

Doubt if legislators like to be told they are second fiddle  
to Nature.

Use if you wish.

Writing Cliff Hope to help omit Tuddle Creek Dam from budget.

Regards,

*Irving Hill*  
vk

Irving Hill,  
President

vk



THE LAWRENCE OUTLOOK  
EST. 1926

THE EUDORA NEWS  
EST. 1896

THE PERRY MIRROR  
EST. 1926

THE McLOUTH TIMES  
EST. 1897

Four Home Town Weekly Newspapers With Exceptionally High Reader Interest. Commercial Printing—VI 3-3666

### *The Lawrence Outlook*

EDWIN F. ABELS — MARIE R. ABELS

P. O. BOX 411

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

January 13, 1956

Mr. Paul L. Jameson,  
Garrison, Kansas

Dear Mr. Jameson:

Thanks for your letter of the 4th inst in reply to my note about the need for more water in the Kansas river. You certainly have my permission to use anything that I write in any manner you see fit. The continuing dry weather is serving to place more and more emphasis on the need for more water.

Mr. Jameson, this water problem is one of the most complicated and most important in our state. We need all the storage that we can possibly get on the farms to feed the ground water supply. The chemical fertilizers and weed and insect sprays that are being used on the farms mixed with the detergents in the modern soaps are combining to throw a terrible strain on those who attempt to drink the water. Late research shows that many underground sources are being contaminated by the chemicals that are used in the fields and kitchens.

We have a growing population down the valley with new industries coming in. They simply have to have water. I have been into this scrap for more water for many years and know that Mr. Breidenthal and all of the rest of the many folks down the valley are far more interested in water for industry and people than in flood control.

If you are interested in studying the water problem I recommend that you get, for a starter, the book "Water or Your Life" by Arthur H. Garhart. It is published by the J.B. Lippencott Co.

Most sincerely,

*E. F. Abels*



## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
LINCOLN 3, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

305 DAIRY INDUSTRY BUILDING

January 26, 1956

Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, Sr.  
Randolph, Kansas

Dear Glenn:

Thank you for your letter of January 17. I am sorry to hear that the Tuttle Creek item has been included in the budget. The newspapers did not indicate that this was the case.

I think you are absolutely right in trying to get a law passed which permits the payment of going concern value. It is much better to accomplish this through an act of Congress than to hope for a modification of court procedures on this point.

I am sending you a copy of a study of land acquisition procedures in the TVA area. It is my understanding that shortly after the TVA program was started, the TVA staff reviewed the land acquisition procedures and concluded that substantial improvements were needed. Consequently they developed procedures which proved to be much more satisfactory to the landowners than the traditional procedures used by the Army.

The specific citation for the statement to which you referred is as follows:

§ 46 Orgel on "Valuation Under Eminent Domain", Vol. 1 Sec. Ed. Sec. 1-187: "Just compensation" say the courts of this country including the highest court, "is a compensation sufficient to make good the loss of the owner."  
In the words of Mr. Justice Butler, the owner "is entitled to the full money equivalent of the property taken, and thereby to be put in as good a position pecuniarily as it would have occupied if its property had not been taken."

-----  
United States v. New River Collieries Co., 262 U.S. 341, 43 S.Ct. 565, 67 L.Ed. 1014 (1923); Pruner v. State Highway Com'r. 173 Va 307, 4 S.E. 2d 393, 395 (1939) ("Compensation must be a full and perfect equivalent for the property") Cf. Commonwealth v. Begley 272 Ky 289, 293, 114 S.W. 2d 127 (1938)  
-----

If you think we can be of any assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,



Kris Kristjanson

KK:lw  
Enclosure

*P.S. There are other cases on the same point — a lawyer may wish to have further references R.K.*

## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

### *Kansas State College*

Manhattan, Kansas

February 7, 1956

Agricultural Experiment Station  
Department of Agricultural Economics

Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, Sr.  
Randolph, Kansas

Dear Glenn:

Thank you for your letter of February 2 in which you described some of the activities of the Corps of Engineers in acquiring land for the Tuttle Creek project. We are greatly interested in this project and I had hoped that we would be able to follow it with one or more studies along the line that you have suggested. When funds were first appropriated we did obtain a small amount to begin a study in the Valley. The amount was insufficient for a complete study and since the project was discontinued temporarily, we ceased to carry on the work which we started.

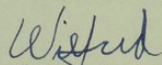
You may know that we had a special project submitted to the legislator in January which would have permitted us to expand our studies of watershed and water supply problems. The legislator did not appropriate funds for this project, however. While the project itself might not have been directed to a study of the acquisition of land for the Tuttle Creek project, it might have permitted us to utilize some of our existing funds for a study in the Blue Valley. This does not mean that we are giving up the idea. We certainly do appreciate having people suggest the importance of such work.

The meeting of the Great Plains Land Tenure Research Committee of the Great Plains Council will be in Manhattan April 9, 10 and 11. I am wondering if we might take a tour of the Valley and obtain at least a brief explanation of the activities of the Corps of Engineers and of your group in the Valley. This might be a good time for the committee to consider sponsoring a study in the Blue Valley.

Under separate cover I am having sent six copies of the bulletin, "TVA Land Acquisition Experience." We have additional copies if you find them useful.

I hope that the next time we meet there will be an opportunity for us to discuss the problems which you have mentioned in your letter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Wilfred H. Pine  
Professor

WHP:eb





CLIFFORD R. HOPE  
FIFTH DISTRICT  
KANSAS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FRANCES M. GRIFFIN  
SECRETARY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SUE ZAJIC  
BEVERLY KENT  
OFFICE ASSISTANTS

February 10, 1956

Mr. Glenn Stockwell, Vice-President  
Kansas Watersheds Association  
Randolph, Kansas

Dear Glen:

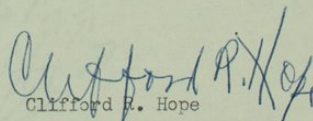
I appreciate your kindness in sending me a copy of the resolutions which were adopted at the last meeting of the Kansas Watershed Association. I am in general accord with these resolutions.

With respect to resolution no. 3, you will be interested in knowing that several of us, including Congressman Poage and myself, have introduced a new watershed bill which makes several changes in the present Act not only in broadening its scope but in doing away with some of the delays and hindrances which were included in the bill as amended by the Senate and as worked out in Conference.

We are going to have subcommittee hearings on these new bills on February 14 and 15 and I believe that the subcommittee as well as the full Committee on Agriculture will make a favorable report on these measures. I think we will also be able to secure passage in the House within a reasonable time. We anticipate some opposition in the Senate, but I believe that we can count on some strong support there also. I am herewith enclosing a copy of the bill which I introduced.

With kindest regards, I am

Very cordially yours,

  
Clifford R. Hope

CRH/bk  
Enclosure

84TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

## H. R. 8804

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 1956

Mr. HOPE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

### A BILL

To amend the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act  
4 (Act of August 4, 1954, 68 Stat. 666) is amended as  
5 follows:

6 (a) Strike out the third sentence of section 2 and amend  
7 the second sentence of said section to read: "Works of  
8 improvement"—any undertaking for—

9 " (1) flood prevention (including structural and land  
10 treatment measures) ; or

11 " (2) the conservation, development, utilization, and

I



1 disposal of water in watershed or subwatershed areas not  
2 exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand acres and not  
3 including any single structure which provides more than  
4 five thousand acre-feet of total capacity except structures  
5 proposed to be constructed by a local organization as  
6 an integral part of a watershed plan in which any capac-  
7 ity in excess of five thousand acre-feet is for purposes  
8 other than flood prevention and the construction cost of  
9 such excess capacity is to be borne entirely by the local  
10 organization."

11 (b) Section 4 of the Act is amended by striking out  
12 of the proviso in paragraph (2) the words "That no part  
13 of the construction cost for providing any capacity in struc-  
14 tures for purposes other than flood prevention and features  
15 related thereto shall be borne by the Federal Government  
16 under the provisions of this Act;" and inserting "That the  
17 Secretary shall not require local organizations to assume  
18 any part of the construction cost of structural measures  
19 applicable to flood prevention".

20 (c) Section 5 of the Act is amended—

21 (1) by striking out in the first proviso " , and in  
22 no event after July 1, 1956";

23 (2) by inserting after the word "That" in the third  
24 proviso " , whenever the estimated Federal contribution  
25 to the construction cost of works of improvement in

1 any watershed or subwatershed area shall exceed  
2 \$250,000,";

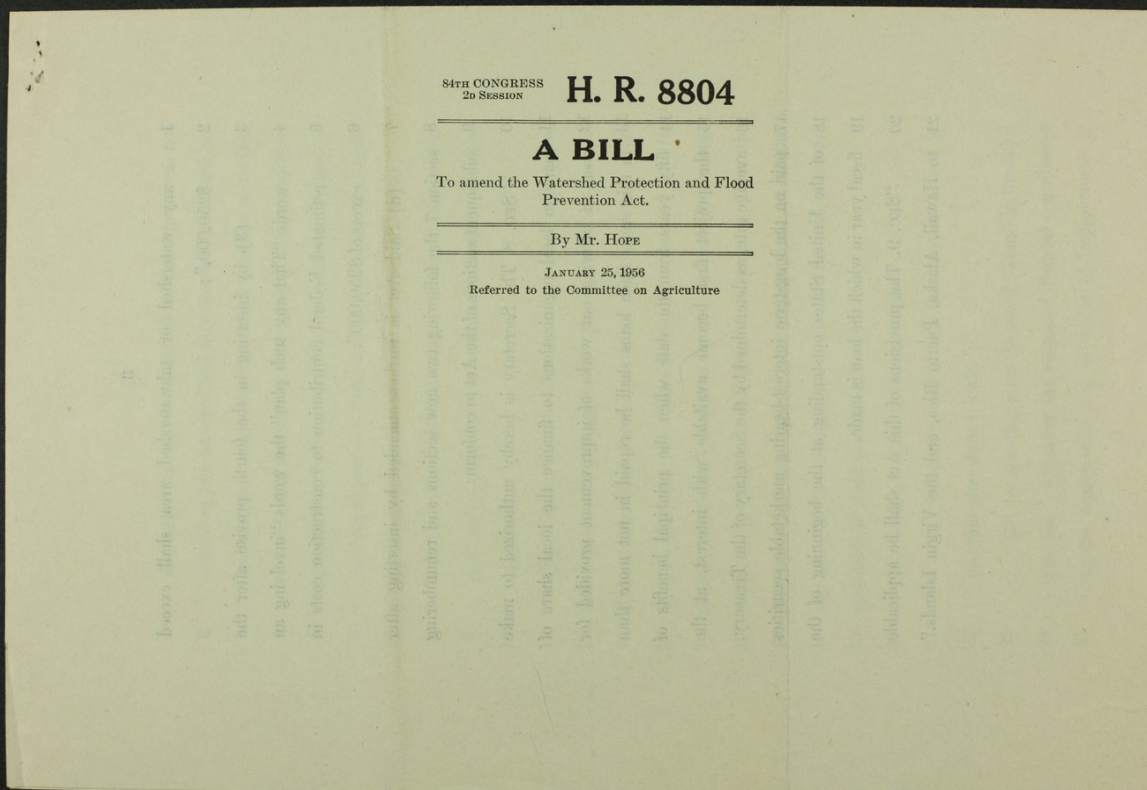
3 (3) by inserting in the fourth proviso after the  
4 words "That any such plan" the words "involving an  
5 estimated Federal contribution to construction costs in  
6 excess of \$250,000".

7 (d) Said Act is further amended by inserting after  
8 section 7 the following two new sections and renumbering  
9 subsequent sections of the Act to conform:

10 "SEC. 8. The Secretary is hereby authorized to make  
11 loans to local organizations to finance the local share of  
12 costs of carrying out works of improvement provided for  
13 in this Act. Such loans shall be repaid in not more than  
14 fifty years from the date when the principal benefits of  
15 the project first become available with interest, at the  
16 average rate, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury,  
17 paid on the long-term interest-bearing marketable securities  
18 of the United States outstanding at the beginning of the  
19 fiscal year in which the loan is made.

20 "SEC. 9. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable  
21 to Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands."







FEB 16 1956

February 17, 1956

The Honorable Andrew F. Schoeppel  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Schoeppel:

I have received your letter of February 14, 1956 in which you request that Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, Sr. of Randolph, Kansas be given an opportunity to appear before the committee in opposition to funds for the continuation of the Tuttle Creek project.

When hearings are scheduled before the committee, I shall be pleased to notify you so that arrangements can be made for Mr. Stockwell's appearance.

Sincerely yours,

AJE:Bg

Allen J. Ellender, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Public Works





O. K. ARMSTRONG  
5104 BROOKVIEW DRIVE  
WASHINGTON 16, D. C.

February 20, 1956

Dear Mr. Jameson:

I appreciate your kind words in regard  
to my recent articles in the Reader's Digest.

I am glad to know that you are keeping  
up the fight on the project out your way. If  
I get into your neighborhood any time soon,  
I hope to give you a ring.

Sincerely yours,

OK.  
m

Mr. Paul L. Jameson  
Garrison  
Kansas

oka:m



## Glenn D. Stockwell correspondence

Feb. 23, 1956

President Dwight D. Eisenhower,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

This confirms my telegram to you, this morning:

"Since you commended my book, urge disapproval Oklahoma dams. Letter follows."

This refers to my book "Big Dam Foolishness," which you mentioned favorably in your press conference of March 16, 1955.

According to our Washington correspondent, Allan Cronley, some of the Oklahoma congressmen hope to have a conference with you, urging you to approve appropriations for the Bufala, Keystone and other big dams in Oklahoma.

I do not know the basis of their representations but I am thoroughly convinced that they do not represent the sentiment of the Oklahoma people as a whole. Our papers took a straw vote on this very issues a few years ago, and the vote was ten to one against the big dams as contrasted with watershed flood control. I do know, however, that powerful special interest lobbies demand the big dams.

Bufala dam is "definitely intended as a silt trap," according to a public speech of Col. W. C. Daly, then chief of the Oklahoma division of Army Engineers, at Stigler, Oklahoma, Oct. 17, 1949. Further significant testimony is found on page 81 of "Big Dam Foolishness" and elsewhere. He admitted that its usefulness would be over in 50 years. If built it will inundate 130,000 acres of some of our best and most fertile bottomland. Keystone Dam is equally vicious. For instance the area to be inundated now produces 40% of all the livestock entering the Tulsa stockyards.

It seems extremely significant to me that, though my book appeared in December, 1955, there has not been the slightest attempt to refute any of the indictments I listed, especially in Chapter Four. I subscribe to the biggest clipping bureau I know of, so keep close tab. Newspaper and magazine reviews of my book have been overwhelmingly favorable, especially in the big New York papers, midwestern papers, national magazines, etc.

Since I lived in Kansas 24 years, and was a neighbor of yours (at Lindsborg) when you lived at Abilene, and since I have relatives in the affected area, I am especially aroused over the crime of the Tuttle Creek Dam, north of Manhattan, which is completely inexcusable. I also urge you to stop machinery in action to stop appropriations and work on this dam.

I also urge you to read at least a brief passage (for instance Pages 36-37) of the new book "Topsail and Civilization," (University of Oklahoma Press), which shows that the proposed Aswan Dam in Egypt will probably wreck Egyptian agriculture and therefore its entire economy, instead of helping it, because of some of the very reasons I adduce in "Big Dam Foolishness." I am not even acquainted with the authors, so have no special interest in the book. I hope you will stop this big dam foolishness. Urge you secure recent opinion of Federal Judge Peirson Hall of Los Angeles. Sincerely yours, Elmer T. Petersen





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### United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE

February 23, 1956

Mr. Glenn D. Stockwell, Sr.  
Randolph, Kansas

Dear <sup>Glenn</sup> Mr. Stockwell:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter I have received from Senator Ellender. You will note that the Senator has advised me he will notify me as soon as hearings are scheduled on the Tuttle Creek Project.

Sincerely,

*Andy*