

DIKE LEADERS, REP. JACKSON TO MEET HERE

Want Action on Cleaning Out Lower River

Representatives of the diking districts west and south of Mount Vernon are meeting with Rep. Henry M. Jackson next Tuesday morning to press for flood protection measures on the lower river.

The group, formally organized Wednesday as Skagit River Control association, will confer with the congressman at 9 a.m. at the city hall as to immediate steps that may be taken to prevent a recurrence of the recent near-disastrous flooding along the river.

County and diking commissioners agreed that the lower river bed has silted in until it takes much less water in the stream than it did in former years to cause dike breaks and overflows.

The group elected Magnus Johnson, commissioner of the district between Mount Vernon and Conway, as its chairman, and Lucille Axelson, Fir Island (route three), also a dike commissioner, as secretary-treasurer.

County Commissioner Lowell Hughes who helped in formation of the association, declined chairmanship but promised future county cooperation.

It appeared possible that Rep. Jackson might be questioned also about withdrawal of army engineers from dike repair work in recent days. One break in the dike along the North Fork was repaired but other work was called off although there were at least two breaks across the river.