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Speaker Doubts Flood Money To Be Available

Doubt that federal aid would be forthcoming for flood control in the Skagit valley was expressed by Byron Clarke, of the Seattle office of the United States army engineer corp. Mr. Clarke spoke before a meeting of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis club Monday noon.

Mr. Clarke emphasized the fact that the federal government works on the plan that the saving must be equal to the cost in any work of this type, wheresoever located, and the speaker believed the Skagit situation was one that would cost more than would be saved.

The question of the often discussed Avon bypass was put and Mr. Clarke contended that at present construction costs it would amount to about nine million dollars. The other alternative, repair, and improvement of the present dike and jetty system would cost in the neighborhood of five million dollars.

Although the army engineer survey of the situation is not quite complete at his time Mr. Clarke stated that it was his belief that there would be no recommendation to the federal government for aid in any of these projects suggested.

The speaker left the impression that if anything was done to improve the situation in the county it would be up to the home folks. He did say he believed the most economical plan was to repair, widen and raise the existing dikes, both the bypass and dredging at the mouth of the river being impractical from the financial viewpoint.