

# The Burlington Journal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1965

## Engineers Explain Bypass At City Council Meeting

Approximately 30 interested citizens heard an Army Corp of Engineers' report on the projected Avon Bypass and later participated in a question and answer period at the Burlington City council meeting Tuesday evening.

Discussion of the plan was expected to enable elected officials and local people to form an opinion on the economic feasibility and desirability of the Bypass.

The present Commander, Colonel Charles Holbrook, attended the meeting, telling those present that he was there "Only to describe what the Corps proposes," and that there "Must be a merging of views."

### Three Part Program

Holbrook outlined a three part program which the Corp claims would protect the Skagit River Basin, as well as the nearby Samish River basin against severe floods of the 100 year cycle nature. The plan includes an improved levee system and improved channel from Mount Vernon to the river's mouth; the Avon Bypass; and improved upstream storage.

### Explains Flood Cycles

Further explaining that floods run in cycles; in the Skagit's case 8,35, and 100 years, Holbrook said that the improved levee and channel would protect against the 8 year cycle floods, the levee, channel, and Avon Bypass together against the 35 year cycle variety, but that an improved and

increased upriver storage area would have to be added to these two parts before the basin would have the needed protection against a flood of the 100 year cycle frequency.

### \$30 Thousand Budgeted

The present proposed federal budget includes \$30 thousand for pre-construction plans, the Colonel said, and that two studies are due to be completed and released within the next three years. Next month a study concerning the improved levee and channel will be released, but it will take the engineers two to three years to complete a study of projected upriver storage plans and potential.

### Projected Damage

Projected figures show that if the flood of 1921 were to occur in this area with its present state of development an estimated damage of \$13,-273,000 would occur.

Robert H. Gedney, Chief of the Basin Planning Branch, gave a report in which he explained the cost and some of the details of the Bypass project.

Gedney placed the cost of the project at \$24 million, two to four million of which would have to come from Skagit County. Gedney also explained that local diking commissions have spent \$3.5 million dollars on maintenance and improvement since 1947.

The original cost of the project in 1936 was \$4 million.