

RUSSELL B. LONG
LOUISIANA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 29, 1973

Colonel Richard Hunt
District Engineer
Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana

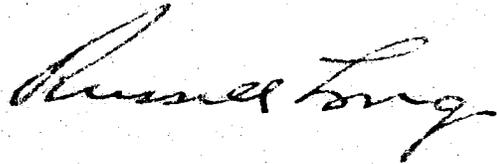
Dear Colonel Hunt:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the letter which I have received from Mr. Charles Torres of Norco, Louisiana.

I shall appreciate having your comments with regard to this situation.

Thanking you, and with best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



HAND CARRY AS NECESSARY
TO INSURE REPLY IN 24 HOURS

1973

May 18, 1973
327 Marino
Norco, Louisiana 70079

From
RUSSELL B. LONG
United States Senator

Senator Russel Long
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT - HURRICANE PROTECTION
POSSIBLE RELOCATION

Dear Senator Long:

I talked to all my friends about this Relocation proposal and they all said the same thing, "Charlie, you're just blowing in the wind (well not exactly blowing), because it will never be relocated because the politicians and rich people won't allow it."

I think a study should be made about relocation. I pay taxes and vote just like everybody else, including the "Honorables" and the big cane growers and I should be heard.

I hope I live long enough to have a man in Washington, that I voted for (Senator Long), to say, "Charlie, although you're not a big land developer or cane grower or politician, you're just a little guy, plain, ordinary, who enjoys his heritage. You do make a little sense and you may not be 100% right, but what you say has some merit and a relocation study should be made. After all, you pay taxes and vote too."

I figured all along that you would cater to the whims of the "Honorable" Politicians, Real Estate Dealers, etc.

Does a "Hurricane Protection Levee" mean that it has to be located on the lakeshores of Lake Pontchartrain? As many citizens of St. Charles Parish have proposed, a flood protection levee immediately north of the Airline highway would be a better investment for our tax dollar.

Examples:

1. The levee would not be subjected to the constant erosion from Lake Ponchartrain (lesser maintenance).
2. The swamps and marshes between Airline highway and Lake Ponchartrain would act as a shock absorber, lessening the damaging effect of high winds and waves to the levee during storms.
3. The existing railroad, not far from the lakeshore, would serve as a breakwater to help protect the levee.
4. The last remaining wetlands in St. Charles Parish East Bank would be preserved.
5. Because of the difference of elevation of these two points (Lake Pontchartrain versus vicinity of Airline Highway) and a sound soil foundation, the levee would not have to be as high or as expensive to build.
6. The inevitable urbanization of these marshlands (Let's face it, its only another land development scheme) will induce people to build in low lying areas and, if the waves top this levee during a storm, how are you going to get the water out.
 - a) In Jefferson Parish, I have seen slab houses built on pilings which are two feet above the yards because the peat has dried up and the yards have sunk.
7. Urbanization of this area will increase the tax burdens of the citizens of St. Charles Parish because of the added costs of maintaining pumps, sewerage facilities, streets, drainage, etc.
8. The effects of urban pollution will certainly ruin Lake Pontchartrain.
 - a) Many documents are available to substantiate the monies derived from commercial fisheries in this area.

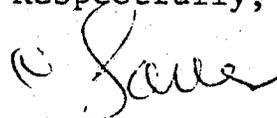
What I wish I would have done in the beginning of this letter, is put the "levee" in its proper projective. My mouth is saying "Hurricane Protection", but my heart is saying "Land Development Levee".

I have previously stated the advantages of relocation of this "Levee". What this proposed relocation of the levee will not do is:

1. Make the "Honorables" and the "Developers" richer than they are.
2. It will not take away outdoor recreation for people in the surrounding parishes.
3. It will not interfere with the livelihood of trappers in the area.
4. It will not "Provide" wetland drainage as proposed by our police jury, whose members are associated with a large land development company.
5. And on, and on, and on.

I think I have made some sound logical proposals. As a taxpayer, I think I have as much right to be heard as the "Big Shots" in the parish. You cannot argue that a relocation study should at least be made before proposing all kinds of bills to keep a certain few people happy.

Respectfully,



Charles Torres