

# Gubser, Klein, Wyckoff Appear Before House Appropriations Group

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The voice of Santa Cruz was heard in the halls of congress today as a city delegation appealed to a house subcommittee for \$307,000 in federal funds to initiate a flood control project on the San Lorenzo river.

Representative Charles S. Gubser of Gilroy made the request before a subcommittee of the house appropriations committee.

He was supported by City Manager Robert Klein and Stephen Wyckoff, former district attorney representing the chamber ofcommerce.

The group described the flood of last December 22-23 when the San Lorenzo river and Branciforte creek went on a rampage that claimed five lives and caused damage estimated at between seven and eight million dollars within the city.

Gubser said the \$307,000 request was based on a recent estimate of Maj. Gen. E. Itschner, assistant chief of army engineers, that planning could be completed and \$100,000 used for initial construction expenditures in the 12 months beginning July 1.

The Santa Cruz plea came amid a wave of requests from northern and central California communities for a total of \$46,203,500 in federal spending on state flood prevention works in the next fiscal year.

President Eisenhower's budget calls for California flood control expenditures totalling \$30,348,000, including \$4,690,000 recently added as a result of the Christmas week floods that devastated sections of the state.

Gubser recently succeeded in having the bureau of the budget revise its appropriation schedule to include the \$207,000 needed to complete flood control planning on the San Lorenzo.

Gubser and the Santa Cruz spokesmen currently are trying to get the extra \$100,000 added so a start can be made on actual construction before the end of the next fiscal year.

Backing all the California requests for additional federal funds was Chairman Clair Hill of the state water resources board, who told congressmen the additional \$16 million was an "extremely modest" plea in view of the flood disasters.

Hill said the California floods claimed 60 lives and caused property damage estimated at 200 million dollars.

"And we still do not know what the loss in crops, employment and industrial output will be," he said.

Hill said existing dams had prevented much greater losses. The Central Valley south of Yuba City, the capital city of Sacramento, Merced and Los Angeles are among areas saved completely or partially from disaster by flood control works already built, Hill said.

Gubser, Klein and Wyckoff struck a somewhat similar theme when they told the subcommittee that Santa Cruz would have been spared its losses in lives and property had levees been in place last December.

As the Santa Cruz spokesmen besieged congress, other bills relating to flood control here were progressing through the legislative levels in Sacramento.

Bill authorizing the San Lorenzo project and providing one million dollars to begin state acquisition of land for the levees were wending their way through both the upper and lower houses of the state legislature.

In addition, the city council has pledged that it will meet its share of the construction costs, last estimated at \$227,500.

These factors were mentioned by the Santa Cruz spokesmen in addressing the committee.

"The people of Santa Cruz are not looking for a handout!" Gubser declared. "This small city of 23,000 has firmly committed more than a quarter million dollars to pay its share in the joint project. In addition, close to one million dollars will come from the state of California."

Gubser said the support given the project in the Santa Cruz area was "most gratifying and remarkable."

"Assurances of support have reached me from every quarter," the congressman told his colleagues. "The central labor council, the building trades council, and almost every single individual labor union in the city of Santa Cruz have signified their support."

"Industries, business, civic and fraternal organizations and the governmental agencies of the city and county have notified me that they not only favor but, indeed, urgently request this appropriation which would, before the first day of the subsequent fiscal year, make possible the start of actual

tory basis until flood protection is assured.

"3—Some businesses have moved out and will not return until protection is completed.

"4—A large urban renewal program with substantial federal investment (the proposed redevelopment of the Front-Water-Ocean-Soquel quadrangle) is jeopardized without flood protection.

"5—New businesses and existing businesses are reluctant to invest in expansion, remodeling or major repairs without flood protection."

Wyckoff said the very future of the city may hinge on flood control.

"I should like to stress that both the community and our state of California stand ready to obligate themselves for the local cooperation which is required by congressional authorization of the San Lorenzo river project," he said.

Describing the "enormous growth" of the neighboring Santa Clara valley, Wyckoff said Santa Cruz must have flood control to keep in step.

"Either Santa Cruz will benefit from and grow in conjunction with this area or be shut off and be condemned to retrogress and stagnate will be decisively affected by the decision this committee will render," Wyckoff said.

Members of the subcommittee reportedly said the presentation made by the California delegation was the "finest" they had heard.

Yesterday, the subcommittee members and other influential congressmen enjoyed a luncheon of abalone and smoked salmon from Santa Cruz served in the dining room of House Speaker Sam Rayburn under the direction of Gubser.

The luncheon was a "huge success," Gubser reported.

Klein and Wyckoff, who is accompanied by Sam Nigh on the trip, will remain in Washington at least until Thursday when they are scheduled to repeat their appeal to the senate appropriations committee.

## Gubser Files For Re-election

Charles S. Gubser, incumbent representative to congress from the 10th District, today filed as a candidate for the June 5 primaries on both the Democratic and Republican tickets. Gubser is now serving his second term in the office for the district which comprises Santa Clara, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties.

At the present time, he is serving on the post office and civil service and the District of Columbia committees.

Previous to his first election to congress in 1952, Gubser served one term as state assemblyman from the 29th District.

He was born in Gilroy in 1916, educated in the Gilroy schools and the University of California, where he graduated in 1937 in political science and economics. He taught at Gilroy high school prior to taking over the family farming interests in the Gilroy area upon the death of his father. He also owned and managed drive-in theaters in the Gilroy and Tracy areas.

He was very active in farm bureau on the state level, and also was a member of the 1948 board of freeholders which drew up the Santa Clara county charter.

Gubser is married and has one daughter. The family home is in Gilroy.

## Treasury Agents Seize Communist Properties

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Klein advanced five reasons for approval of the \$307,000 appropriation:

"1—Industry along the San Lorenzo river is threatened with the possibility of permanent destruction if another flood occurs prior to completion of a levee system.

"2—Many businesses are forced to operate on a restricted inven-

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New York (AP). — U. S. treasury agents swooped down on Communist property across the United States today and seized it for alleged tax delinquency.

Agents made seizures in New York City, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Chicago and Detroit among other places.

In New York, agents took over Communist Party headquarters and the plant of the Daily Worker.

In Philadelphia agents padlocked headquarters of the Communist Party of Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware for alleged non-payment of \$389,265 in taxes.