

BURNET, Texas, November 2, 1947 ----- The unanimous opinion of at least 154 civic minded citizens of counties all over central and south central Texas is that the soil conservation movement has been given a new lease on life.

The opinion of these citizens -- through spokesmen at a meeting held in the administration building at Buchanan dam near Burnet -- was that the decision of two great river authorities to actively enter soil conservation work would stand out as a landmark in soil conservation .

Some of the speakers, notably V. C. Marshall, the executive secretary of the State Soil Conservation Board, predicted that the step taken by the two Central Texas authorities would be adopted by every river district in the United States.

Marshall was one of several authoritative speakers at a meeting called by Congressman Lyndon Johnson, whose personal appeal led both the Lower Colorado River authority and the Guadalupe Blanco River authority to enter the soil conservation field.

Johnson also called the meeting at Buchanan Dam, in order that citizens from all over the area served might personally be informed about it. Present were county Judges, Commissioners and Agents; directors of local soil conservation districts through which the river authorities will work; directors and officials of the state and Federal soil conservation agencies; members of rural electrification cooperative boards of directors; and others interested in betterment of rural living.

Johnson explained that he had suggested only two basic steps to the two authorities, with other plans to be worked out by them: First, the employment of the best available man by each district to head up a soil conservation division; and second, the immediate purchase of heavy machinery for terracing work, at rock-bottom cost to the farmers.

By adopting these proposals, the river authorities also agreed to take in all counties within their primary service areas for electricity.

Here are typical statements by the speakers:

Orville Buttery, Chairman of the LCRA: "Our board wants to leave something to remember us by when we're dead and gone."

Mr. Marshall: "If in each Congressional District of the nation, people would unite to save the soil it would be a great thing for mankind. You are trail blazing; adding impetus to a movement which will be copied over all the nation."

Herman Kruger, representing the Taylor soil conservation district: "Farmers have always needed and wanted the support of all others in the community; so from the farmers' standpoint, this is one of the greatest things that has ever happened to us."

Ed Cape, general manager of the GBRA: "We're trying to see into the future so that those who come after us will give us credit for not having lived too selfishly."

Louis Merrill, regional conservator for the Federal soil conservation service: "With all the work that's been done, we're still losing half a million acres of soil every year. And the land is NOT unlimited."

Dr. Ide Trotter, head of the A & M Extension Service: "We believe in conserving the total rural resource, and the greatest is our rural people. We believe that this movement will help give them an opportunity for the kinds of homes, conveniences and opportunities they should have."

Support of the press was pledged by Addison Buckner of the San Marcos Record, who said the weekly newspapers of the section were anxious and willing to support those things which would better their communities.