

MR. PASTORE introduced on behalf of himself and Senator Green the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

Authorizing certain construction for the protection of the Narragansett Bay area against hurricane tidal flooding.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the project for the protection of the Providence, Rhode Island, area against hurricane tidal floods by the construction of a barrier at Fox Point on the Providence River is authorized substantially in accordance with the recommendations of the Division Engineer, New England Division, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, in his report dated February 15, 1957, as such may be modified by the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors and the Chief of Engineers, at an estimated initial cost to the United States of \$16,180,000.

Sec. 2. The project for the general protection of the Narragansett Bay area from hurricane tidal floods by the construction of a series of Lower Bay barriers is authorized substantially in accordance with the recommendations of the Division Engineer, New England Division, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, in his report dated February 15, 1957, as such may be modified by the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors and the Chief of Engineers, at an estimated initial cost to the United States of between \$67,000,000 and \$105,000,000.

Sec. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Mr. President, I introduce for appropriate reference, a bill authorizing certain construction for the protection of the Narragansett Bay area against hurricane tidal flooding. Narragansett Bay lies in one of the most densely populated areas of the country. In density of population, Rhode Island ranks first in the United States. Most of the major industrial areas of the state are located in the Bay area; and within the lower and middle bays is one of the primary naval bases of our country. The Port of Providence ranks third in New England.

With its mouth open to the Atlantic Ocean, Narragansett Bay lies in the path of the great hurricanes which approach the New England coast. The three most damaging hurricanes since 1900 occurred in the 17 year period from 1938 to 1954. Two of these produced flood levels 15 to 16 feet above the mean sea level at Providence. The 1954 flood covered 500 acres of the commercial area of Providence with damages of \$41 million while the total damage in the Narragansett Bay area was \$92 million. In the 1938 hurricane the damage for the entire area was \$120 million.

Because of these destructive hurricanes, the Congress in Public Law 71, 84th Congress authorized studies to be made for the protection of Providence and the lower Narragansett Bay area. The plans recommended as a result of these studies are incorporated in the bill now introduced. There are two units -- the Fox Point Dam and the Lower Bay Barriers. Estimated annual benefits from the Fox Point Dam are \$1,733,000; benefit to cost ratio

of 2.37 to 1.0. Estimated benefits from the Lower Bay Barrier will annually be \$4,267,000 at a benefit ratio of 1.65 to 1.0. All these figures establish the economic feasibility of the projects in the judgment of the engineers. In addition we have the uncalculated costs to health, security and national defense -- and beyond that, the tragic cost in human life -- for 250 lives were lost in Rhode Island alone in the hurricane of 1938 . Approval of these projects will be confirmation of the careful studies of the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army and our concern for the security of an area important to our economy and to our defense.