

## **Kentucky Governor Meets Both Sides in Dam Dispute**

**Special to The New York Times**

**FRANKFORT, Ky., Nov. 22**

—Gov. Edward T. Breathitt Jr. met for nearly three hours today with about 30 representatives of both sides in the controversy over the preservation of Kentucky's remote Red River Gorge, but the Governor took no action on the dispute.

The gorge, an area of the Daniel Boone National Forest with deep bluffs and more than 30 natural bridges, is to be inundated by a flood control dam scheduled for construction by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Conservation groups in Kentucky have started a campaign to block construction of the dam.

Conservationists here call the gorge "the Grand Canyon of the East." Last Saturday, the Kentucky chapter of the Sierra Club sponsored a protest hike by about 400 opponents of the dam.

The term of Governor Breathitt, a Democrat with a strong record as a conservationist, expires in three weeks. Aides said after the meeting today that he probably would not alter his earlier position favoring starting construction of the Dam before he leaves office on Dec. 12.