

Red River Dam

LOUIS F. LOMBARDI

New York Times (1857-Current file); Jan 2, 1968; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2003)
pg. 36

Letters to the Editor of The Times

Red River Dam

To the Editor:

As a monetary economist specializing in water resource planning, I was pleased to note your Dec. 27 editorial in regard to a dam to be erected on a gorge of the Red River in Kentucky.

From a monetary bias, I am concerned with the eradication of values which transcend assignment of traditional benefits and costs in such projects. I feel that too little consideration has been given, in the past, to the present and future values of natural settings.

While no one faults flood control, the production of electric power and the many other useful results of such projects, there are alternative methods of providing these benefits which are perhaps not explored as fully as they ought to be. In a large measure, this is because values of undeveloped or underdeveloped natural resources—such as a wild or natural recreation site, are not properly understood in relation to present and future opportunities. To some conservationists lost opportunity costs are suggestive of wasted resources.

In developing value theory to give adequate consideration to all uses, we are moving closer to meeting those desires of the general public which are frequently given low ratings because of the difficulty found in fixing resource values.

I am sure that many residents in the area of the proposed project are most appreciative of the beauty and value of the Red River in its natural state. It would seem to be feasible to take measures which would augment this natural value, rather than diminish it.

LOUIS F. LOMBARDI
Richmond, Va., Dec. 27, 1967