

# The Daily Star

Monday, January 10, 2005

## Who really benefits from Washington Parish fresh water lake?

Dear Editor,

I am writing about the Washington Parish Reservoir that is being planned, to supposedly provide "fresh water for future growth." It really doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what is going on here. In it's simplest form, it is money thing --- not money for the people who are going to be losing their land and homes, but money for the rich people who is behind all of this.

We need a fresh water take in Louisiana about like we need a category 5 hurricane loaded with f5 tornadoes coming straight up the mouth of the Mississippi river.

The shame of it all is that everybody else in the state is going to sit back and watch while these people have their homes stolen from them by the state officials that were elected to public office.

Since it does not affect us, we just sit back and say those poor people, but it is for the greater good. My question has to be, the greater good of whom? The people of Washington Parish? I don't think so.

Who came up with the idea to begin with? Is it for the benefit of the state? Another fresh water lake is not going to benefit me any.

That leaves the logical answer that the only

ones that will benefit are those that conceived a way to make millions of dollars off the backs of a few poor families using a law that has been so corrupted by judges and other elected officials through the years that it no longer has the meaning for which it was intended. Of course, that is typical of most of our constitutional rights.

While watching the news on WWL and WDSU, almost the entire newscast was about the Louisiana soldiers that were killed by a road side bomb. Each of the families interviewed spoke of their loved ones pride at being in Iraq, fighting for their country and what they believed in. It is so ironic and such a disgrace that while these young men lost their lives on a foreign battlefield defending our Constitution and the rights and freedoms of those here at home, there are elected officials that are in the processes of stealing the homes and land from American families that have lived there for over 200 years; All because some one is going to be lining pockets with more money.

You may be asking, what business is this of yours? You do not even live in Washington Parish. No. I don't, but much of my family does. My dad and his parents and siblings came from Bogalusa and the surrounding area. Some of my

Grandmother's family still lives there: in fact, they may be some of the very ones that are losing their land.

I have a picture of my great grandfather, Mr. Nicholas E. Adams, believed to be dated around 1899, along with his entire family taken in front of their cabin in an area known, in 1985, as Forest Hills Subdivision of Bogalusa. The two cemeteries that are being affected could well be the burying place of many of my family members.

More important than that is the fact that the same thing could happen to any one of us at any time if we the people do not put a stop to it now. Our government is supposed to be one that is of the people, for the people, by the people; yet, we the people have grown so apathetic that people are run over by the government like they are nothing.

Before anyone gets the wrong idea I am NOT advocating any kind of violence against the government. What I am advocating is that we the people begin to overload the phone lines, the e-mail inboxes and the postal boxes with letters and phone calls expressing our displeasure about the way things are being done.

Believe me, when a delegation from a new

African government comes all the way to Louisiana to see first hand how not to run their new government, that is a very sad commentary on the people of this state; and it happened.

We need to get very much involved and not let these families stand alone.

Since this state is well endowed with ample supplies of fresh water, one can only assume that anyone wanting to build a 4600-acre lake is motivated by one thing: money and plenty of it. It also leads us to believe that the same people are using the government to sanction the theft of people's land and homes, which they would not give up otherwise, using the eminent domain law.

As one of the men interviewed by news channel 6 put it, "They are telling us poor people to get out of the way so that they can put their mansions on the lake front properties."

Sen. Ben Nevers, in his most sanctimonious voice, promptly denied that saying, "This is certainly not true."

All I can say to Mr. Nevers is prove it. Stand up for all of the people and not just for those with money.

I welcome any comments about what I have written.

- Ronnie Adams, Hammond