

## Clearwater Valley Citizens Invited to Review Army Engineers' Dealings Here

L. E. Pietsch, chairman of the natural resources committee of the Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce, today issued an invitation to representatives of chambers of commerce, farmers' groups, and interested citizens in the Clearwater drainage area of north Idaho to come here and investigate first hand corps of army engineers handling of dam projects before lending support to the proposed dams in the Clearwater area.

"Our committee will not be represented at Friday's preliminary hearing at Orofino," Pietsch said, "but we do expect to present statements at future hearings. Most of all, however, we would be glad to have delegates from the area involved come to Bonner county and learn first hand some of the problems involved in dealing with army engineers, and what to expect.

### Record is Complete

"Our committee has been dealing with the engineers over a period of a number of years, along with Bonner county officials and those of the city of Sandpoint. We have a fully documented record of these dealings.

"Our committee submits that over a period of years, officials of the corps made repeated promises and representations to secure local public support for the Albeni Falls project. These promises have been met only reluctantly in some instances, and only under the strongest pressure from all quarters in others.

"There is at present no reason

to believe that another section of Idaho will receive any different treatment than that accorded Bonner county local municipalities, and hundreds of individuals whose property was involved in the Albeni Falls reservoir project.

### Files Are Available

"Our committee is prepared to open its files to anyone interested to show that treatment of Idaho citizens by army engineers was arbitrary and high-handed."

Pietsch said the committee also believed that, in event the proposed Clearwater or any other army engineer projects receive congressional approval, members of Idaho's congressional delegation should make certain that appropriation measures actually provide for restitution in kind or damage payments.

"These must never again be left in the status of an army engineers if-and-or-maybe-so promise," he concluded.