

Stalling Kinzua ^{Part 8/6/44}

In passing the bill to prevent the Army Engineers from filling the Allegheny River Reservoir the House took the only rational course left to it. Construction of the Kinzua Dam was allowed to proceed, despite vigorous protests from the Seneca Indians living in the area, amid promises of generous treatment of those whose lands would be taken. Those promises have not been fulfilled. Several hundred persons are still living in the valley to be flooded, and no funds have been appropriated either for their compensation or resettlement.

Though both houses of Congress have voted compensation bills, the House has been unwilling to let the \$20.15 million fund it voted be sliced to less than half of that sum, as proposed by the Senate. We think the House is right. The scanty Senate fund would deny the dispossessed Senecas any rehabilitation worthy of the name, thus compounding their grievance resulting from violation of the treaty which gave them the land in perpetuity. Rather than submit to such injustice it is better to delay use of the controversial project.

Two courses are now open to the Senate. It can agree to the rehabilitation fund or pass the House bill postponing use of the reservoir. It would be unthinkable to close the gates of the dam and flood the homes and lands of the residents prior to their compensation and resettlement. Should the Senate do nothing, the President would doubtless have to intervene to halt the scheduled filling of the reservoir. Fortunately, however, the Senate still has time to take the honorable course.