

Referee's appendix for the manuscript:

Blame-Games, the Media and Discretionary Behaviour of Bureaucrats

Media reports used to construct variable *Media*:

Source: Vanderbilt Television News Archive which contains news broadcasts and stories from the major U.S. national broadcast networks (ABC, CBS, CNN and NBC) since 1968. A keyword search was performed and each article including "Corps of engineers" and "flood" was screened for negative comments. The variable switches to 1 if there was at least one TV-report with critical comments on the USACE's work in a given year and 0 otherwise.

Dummy=1 in years 1972, 1977, 1979, 1983, 1993, 1994, 1997 and 2005.

ABC Evening News for Friday, Aug 25, 1972

Headline: Flood Control

(Studio) Recent occurrence **of** floods raises questions about **flood** control systems.
REPORTER: Howard K. Smith

(Isleton, California) [Film **of** June **flood** in California caused by broken levy shown.]

Abstract: (Rapid City, South Dakota) [Film **of** June **flood** in South Dakota caused by heavy rains and failure **of** earthen dam shown.] (Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania) [June **flood** in Pennsylvania follows same pattern: old levys and dikes which hadn't been maintained and couldn't take rainfall from hurricane Agnes.] Congress orders Army **Corps of Engineers** to inspect all 28,000 private dams and dikes in country. (Oakland, California) Upper San Leandro Reservoir earthen dam might fail in earthquake. San Francisco dams could fail and result in tidal wave.
REPORTER: Jules Bergman

ABC Evening News for Monday, Nov 07, 1977

Headline: Flooding / Georgia Dam Collapse / Local Dam Inspection

(Studio) Rainstorms and flooding in eastern US, especially flooding in 3 Appalachian states noted. President Carter's declaration of Georgia as disaster area, in wake of collapse of earthen dam at Toccoa, noted. REPORTER: Barbara Walters

(Toccoa, Georgia) Report on aftermath of flood at Toccoa, Georgia. 1st victims were students at Toccoa Falls Bible College, and nearly all dead were associated with school. [Paul WILLIAMS - talks of parents' deaths.] [Army Corps of Engineers spokesperson Colonel Frank WALTER - has no information re: reason for collapse yet; cites Corps report on dams made available to state and local govts.]

Abstract: REPORTER: Bob Sirkin

(DC) Dam burst in Buffalo Creek, West Virginia, similar to Georgia dam burst, noted. (Film shown.) Congress authorization of Corps to investigate problem of nonfederal dams and results of inventory by Corps described. [Representative Leo RYAN - cites danger of such dams, using Kelley Barnes Dam as example] Corps' estimates of amount needed to fund local dam inspections, Nixon administration's policy of nonfederal dam inspection being nonfederal government responsibility and Carter administration's maintenance of this policy, so far, noted. Corps has received some funds for local dams, but administration policy not yet clear.
REPORTER: Herbert Kaplow

Broadcast Type: Evening News Segment Type: News Content

CBS Evening News for Monday, Nov 07, 1977

Headline: Rain and Floods / Georgia Dam Collapse / Dam Safety / North Carolina Floods

(Studio) President Carter's declaration **of** Toccoa, Georgia, as disaster area in wake **of** dam burst there noted.

REPORTER: Walter Cronkite

(Toccoa, Georgia) Report on aftermath **of flood** and cleanup efforts; damage to area, include Toccoa Falls Bible College, noted. [Georgia governor's office spokesperson Tom PERDUE - notes difficulty **of** finding cause **of** dam burst, due to complete demolition **of** dam.] Army **Corps of Engineers** spokesperson Colonel Frank Walter's speculation with regard to dam burst cited. Other dams in Georgia designated by **Corps** as hazardous and details with regard to designation and inspection stated. [**Corps** spokesperson General Kenneth McINTYRE - notes need for inspection **of** small dams across US.]

REPORTER: Bruce Hall

Abstract:

(Studio) House subcommittee 's hearings on dam safety earlier in year noted.

REPORTER: Walter Cronkite

(DC) [Subcommittee chairperson Leo RYAN - cites belief that other dams have same potential as Toccoa dam did to burst; cites Kelley Barnes Dam as example] Congress provision for **Corps** inspection **of** dams, but without funds to carry it out, noted. [RYAN - cites money spent on airport safety and says dam safety ought to have same spent on it.] Ryan's suggestion **of** putting jobless to work repairing dams noted.

REPORTER: Jed Duvall

(Studio) Report on flooding due to rain in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mts. (Film shown.)

REPORTER: Walter Cronkite

NBC Evening News for Tuesday, Mar 27, 1979

Headline: Segment 3 (The Corps of Engineers)

(Studio) Report introduced.

(DC) Army **Corps of Engineers** project on Red River in Louisiana said typical **Corps** venture; details given. Films shown. Incr. in estimated cost **of** project since congress authorization 10 years ago reported; graph shown. **Corps** reassessment **of** benefits gained by project cited. Federal law with regard to economy benefits **of** **Corps** projects in relationship to cost to taxpayers quoted. Allegations **of** cost underevaluations by **Corps** and **Corps'** defense **of** projects stated. **Corps'** position with regard to Red River project detailed; uselessness **of** lake created by project **Abstract:** pointed out [**Corps** spokesperson Lieutenant General John MORRIS - comments.] **Corps** claim **of flood** prevention and erosion control benefits from Red. River project and allegation **of** lying by **Corps** reported [**Corps** OFFICIAL - talks about exaggeration by **Corps** with regard to project expenses; says was directed by superiors to lie.] [MORRIS - denies orders re: falsification.] Falsification **of** benefit analysis **of** Tennessee River-Tombigbee Canal project detailed. Admin. abandonment **of** plan to strip **Corps of** authority to calculate costs and benefits said due to congress opposition to plan; Congmen. reported to see **Corps** as source **of** money for home districts.
REPORTER: Robert Bazell

NBC Evening News for Thursday, Apr 19, 1979

Headline: Floods / Jackson

(Studio) Receding **of** Jackson, Mississippi, flooding by Pearl River reported; questions re: lack **of flood** prediction noted.
REPORTER: David Brinkley

Abstract: (Jackson, Mississippi) Concern in Jackson over lack **of** warning cited [TIC. PEPPER - comments with regard to need for warning system.] Jackson mayor's response to complaints quoted. [Mayor Dale DANKS - comments with regard to inaccuracy **of** Army **Corps of Engineers** info.] **Corps** response noted.

REPORTER: George Lewis (WLBT newscast, Jackson, Mississippi)

Broadcast Type: Evening News Segment Type: **News Content**

Program Time: 05:54:40 pm - 05:56:50 pm. Duration: 02:10

Record Number: 503832

Link to this page <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/program.pl?ID=503832>

Online Video: Click here to view this video segment in RealMedia format

Reporters: Brinkley, David; Lewis, George

CBS Evening News for Tuesday, Apr 24, 1979

Headline: Floods / North and South

(Studio) New snow in Butte, MT, continued flooding **of** Red River in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and receding **of** Pearl River in Columbia, Mississippi; Robert Patterson's successful efforts to save house noted. Films shown. Mississippi reported expecting more rain.

REPORTER: Walter Cronkite (WCCO-TV and WAFB-TV newscasts)

Abstract:

(Silver Spring, MD) Criticism **of** National Weather Service **flood** warnings outlined; Red. River situation cited. [National Weather Service spokesperson Robert CLARK - predicts more flooding for LA.] Clark quoted with regard to overtaxing **of** Army **Corps of Engineers flood** control projects. [CLARK - comments on **flood** control projects.] Amt. **of** damage from past week's floods stated.

REPORTER: Barry Serafin

(Studio) Environment group spokesperson quoted with regard to poor government approach to **flood** control money in Mississippi.

REPORTER: Walter Cronkite

Broadcast Type: Evening News Segment Type: **News Content**

Program Time: 05:42:50 pm - 05:45:30 pm. Duration: 02:40

Record Number: 263367

Link to this page <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/program.pl?ID=263367>

Reporters: Cronkite, Walter; Serafin, Barry

**ABC Evening News for
Monday, Apr 11, 1983**

Headline: Floods / South

(Studio) Amt. **of** damage in **flood**-ravaged South mentioned.
REPORTER: Max Robinson

Abstract: (Slidell, LA) Efforts **of** southe. Louisiana to recover from floods examined; films shown. **Corps of Engineers** role in region noted. [Parish president Bruce YUNIGAS - thinks **Corps** has responsibility to reevaluate their projections and take quick action.] Govt.'s assurances against flooding to Frank and Jan Hyde noted; state **of** their house at present shown. [Jan HYDE - is tired **of** bureaucratic delays.]
REPORTER: Bob Sirkin

**ABC Evening News for
Monday, Jul 19, 1993**

Headline: Mississippi River / Midwest Flooding / Levee System

(Studio: Renee Poussaint) Levels **of** the Mississippi River in Prairie du Chien, WI, Davenport, Iowa, Quincy, Illinois, and Saint Louis noted.

Abstract: (Saint Louis: Tom Foreman) The flooding near Saint Louis and the criticism **of** the man-made levee system featured; scenes shown **of** water flowing over the levees. [Conservationist Dale PONTIUS, Army **Corps of Engineers** Gary DYHOUSE - offer differing opinions on the levee system **of** the Army **Corps of Engineers**.]

(Studio: Renee Poussaint) Report introduced.

(Des Moines, Iowa: Mike von Fremd) The **flood** damage in Des Moines, Iowa, featured; scenes shown. [Residents Nancy LOISCHNER, Dorothy and Bud STETLER - react to the damage.]

Broadcast Type: Evening News Segment Type: News Content

Program Time: 05:37:00 pm - 05:41:40 pm. Duration: 04:40

Record Number: 148856

Link to this page <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/program.pl?ID=148856>

Reporters: Foreman, Tom; Poussaint, Renee; von Fremd, Mike

ABC Evening News for Thursday, May 26, 1994

Headline: Clinton / Flood Policy

(Studio: Peter Jennings) Report introduced.

Abstract: (New York: Ned Potter) President Clinton's decision to reverse the **flood** policy **of** rebuilding levees to one **of** moving homes out **of** the **flood** plain featured; scenes shown from July 1993 where the levee broke in Quincy, Illinois, and from Valmeyer, Illinois, where the town voted to move to higher ground. [American Rivers Scott FABER - comments.] [Senator Max BAUCUS - calls for a new Army **Corps of Engineers**' strategy.]

Broadcast Type: Evening News Segment Type: News Content

Program Time: 05:42:00 pm - 05:43:30 pm. Duration: 01:30

Record Number: 153979

Link to this page <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/program.pl?ID=153979>

Reporters: Jennings, Peter; Potter, Ned

CBS Evening News for Friday, Nov 07, 1997

Headline: El Nino / California Flooding

(Studio: Dan Rather) Report introduced.

Abstract: (Marysville, California: Sandra Hughes) The possible effects **of** El Nino on California agriculture and how flooding will cause shortages and higher prices outlined; scenes shown from along the levees. [Farmer Dale NIESHELTZ, Army **Corps of Engineers** Jason FANSELAU - talk about last year's **flood** and the failure **of** the system **of** levees to prevent flooding.]

Broadcast Type: Evening News Segment Type: News Content

Program Time: 05:48:00 pm - 05:50:10 pm. Duration: 02:10

Record Number: 373331

Link to this page <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/program.pl?ID=373331>

Reporters: Hughes, Sandra; Rather, Dan

**FOX Evening News for
Thursday, Sep 15, 2005**

Headline: Hurricane Katrina / Recovery / Gulf Coast / Bush Speech

(Studio: Shepard Smith) Tonight's French Quarter address by President Bush, and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's plans to reopen large sections **of** the city reported. [NAGIN†- says the city will "breathe again."]

(New Orleans: Phil Keating) Details given **of** plans to reopen parts **of** the city; progress reports from sewage and water department quoted; scenes shown **of** debris and cleanup. [NAGIN†- hopes to keep the city safe.] Plans to use the infamous Convention Center to house retail outlets for returning residents to get supplies for rebuilding noted.

(Studio: Shepard Smith) Red Cross statistics on damage in Mississippi quoted; scenes shown **of flood** waters, and the destruction in Port Sulphur†, Louisiana. [Port Sulphur storm victim Nick GIBSON†- plans to move back.] Details given **of** newly approved Senate housing vouchers for displaced Gulf Coast residents.

Abstract:

(Traveling with the president in New Orleans: Carl Cameron) Details given **of** the speech Bush will give tonight from Jackson Square; excerpts from speech quoted on screen; scenes shown **of** Bush's tour through Pascagoula†, Mississippi.

(Studio: Shepard Smith) An admission by the head **of** the Army **Corps of Engineers of** mistakes made in handling the levee breaches in New Orleans reported.

(Washington: Steve Centanni) "New York Times" interview with former FEMA director Michael Brown† blaming the botched Katrina response on disorganization **of** Louisiana officials quoted on screen; Louisiana Governor Kathleen†† Blanco† quoted as saying resources were available to Brown.

Broadcast Type: Evening News Segment Type: **News Content**

Program Time: 06:01:00 pm - 06:11:00 pm. Duration: 10:00

Record Number: 811292

Link to this page <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/program.pl?ID=811292>

Reporters: Smith, Shepard; Keating, Phil; Cameron, Carl; Centanni, Steve