

The Oahu project was first authorized in 1944 in the Flood Control Act which covered the so-called Pick-Sloan plan for Missouri River development. It was then conceived as a 750,000- to 1 million-acre project. Subsequent detailed investigations have indicated that about 495,000 acres in the area are best suited for irrigation. It is contemplated that future units will extend the project to at least this total acreage.

Since joining the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in 1963, our colleague, Senator George McGovern, has kept many of us aware of the importance of this project to the State and Nation, as has the very able senior Senator from South Dakota, Senator Karl Mundt.

Senator Mundt, incidentally, is the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee for the Department of the Interior. As you all know, these projects first have to be authorized. That is the main problem for Senator McGovern. But having authorized it, that is not enough. You have to get the money. Senator Mundt is the ranking minority member on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and I am sure he will have something to say, as will Senator McGovern, about the prospects of not only the authorization, but getting the money. We are delighted and pleased that both Senators are here today.

I am going to ask the two Senators to make their opening statements, first Senator McGovern and then Senator Mundt.

**STATEMENT OF HON. GEORGE MCGOVERN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM
THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

Senator MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, first of all I want to express my personal appreciation, and I think I speak for all South Dakotans, to you for the prompt scheduling of these hearings.

We have the favorable report before us from the Department of the Interior. It was followed by just a couple of days by the favorable report from the administration.

So I am grateful to you and also to the subcommittee chairman, Senator Anderson, and the rest of my fellow committee members, for the prompt consideration being given this bill.

I would like to also take this occasion to thank Senator Moss of Utah, and Senator Burdick, our colleague from North Dakota, who joined with me in the field hearings in Redfield on the 22d day of May. We heard about 100 witnesses at that time. I am sure that the hearing, and the experience we had in the State, will help pave the way for authorization of the bill.

Senator Moss told me after the hearing in Redfield that it was one of the finest, if not the finest, field hearing it has ever been his pleasure to participate in.

Senator JACKSON. Senator McGovern, I wanted to say to both you and Senator Mundt that I have another meeting scheduled right at this hour. I will be leaving shortly. I will ask Senator Burdick to preside at the hearing this morning. I hope you gentlemen will understand the situation.

Senator MCGOVERN. We appreciate your being here to open the hearings, Senator Jackson.