

It was the promise of large-scale irrigation development that caused us to accept the sacrifices and the loss of rich river bottom land that was necessary to make possible the enormous flood potential, navigation, power generation, and irrigation reservoirs on the Missouri River.

It is estimated that the first stage of the project that we are considering here today, a 190,000-acre project, will support an increased population of some 14,000 people, and that it will generate an average increase in our annual economic activity of some \$71 million.

For South Dakotans, it means an end to the depressing cycle of dry years that has plagued our agriculture for many decades.

For the benefit of those who are concerned about bringing new land under irrigation as it relates to surplus crops, I point out that irrigation in our State will actually work in a beneficial direction by freeing us from dependence on those grain crops that are in surplus. It will enable us to expand livestock production. Meat products are in increasing demand in our country as we upgrade the quality of the foods we consume.

It is my personal belief that because of the growing demands for food that will be placed on agriculture in this Nation from both our own country and from other parts of the globe in another decade, that we should begin now to increase our productivity and our productive possibilities to meet those demands.

Again, let me say I look forward to hearing from the witnesses who are in the committee room today, particularly Mr. Fred Holscher, chairman, Oahe subdistrict, and his fellow directors.

I want to give assurances to everyone who testified at the Redfield hearings that those remarks will be incorporated in the official hearings to be printed at the conclusion of the testimony we will take today.

I will not take any further time from the hearing today since I can express further views in executive sessions. We have a number of expert witnesses with us, from the administration, from our State, members of the congressional delegation, as well as our Governor, whom we want to hear.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator BURDICK (presiding): Senator Mundt?

#### STATEMENT OF HON. KARL E. MUNDT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator MUNDT. Mr. Chairman, may I say first of all it is good to be back before this committee again, where I have been so many times. We have a real affinity for this committee on our Appropriations Committee because we deal, in large part, in one of our subcommittees, with the constructive work which you authorize in this committee.

I see all of you at times before our committee asking for funds to carry out projects you authorize. I think the last invasion we had from this committee was by the acting chairman, Senator Burdick, who came down for the funds for the Garrison project, which is a sort of twin project to our Oahe unit. It is a little further north, and a little faster moving. It moved especially fast, of course, because of