

the eloquent appeal of our acting chairman, aided a little bit by the fact that his senior colleague serves on the Appropriations Committee.

Senator BURDICK. And we are very grateful to both of you.

Senator MUNDT. Thank you. May I say, sir, that all of the eloquent arguments that you made for the Garrison project are equally pertinent to the Oahe project. Each is similar to the other. So I am happy, and I associate myself first of all with the remarks of my junior colleague with regard to our appreciation to the many witnesses who have come here from South Dakota today, and the assistance we received from Mr. Holum, the cooperation that this committee has provided as we move now in the direction of authorizing S. 6, to take care of the Oahe unit, which we hope can be done expeditiously. Of course, the wheels of the Appropriations Committee cannot turn until the authorization bill has passed the Congress.

This brings to a period of fruition a long-time development of our Missouri River development program. I well remember the early 1940's when we were going up and down the river through a nine-State area with Members of Congress and the various Governors who were serving at that time, with representatives of the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, seeking to sit down together and develop a plan which would provide the needed flood control, irrigation, and other resource development programs to enhance our overall economy and well-being on the Missouri River and protect the people in the lower areas from the awesome floods which have been disturbing the populace for many years.

I recall the many meetings with General Pick and Glenn Sloan, who started out at arms' length at the beginning of that long tour and wound up working together with complete cooperation, and cutting a real path, it seems to me, in the way in which two companion divisions of Government, the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, could work together as one.

The plan called for the construction of four high dams on the Missouri River in South Dakota and one in North Dakota, which would provide water for irrigation of what was thought to be around 750,000 acres. It also would provide significant flood control, navigation, and water quality control benefits to many residents down the stream, along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

Of course, it has been tremendously successful in the generation of cheap hydroelectric power. From the very beginning, the people and all public officials of South Dakota have strongly backed the full development of the Pick-Sloan plan, even though it would flood and remove from the tax rolls in South Dakota, as it did in North Dakota, over 1 million acres of productive agricultural land.

The irrigation development is a benefit of construction of the large-scale dams, and as a result of the inundating of our fertile land, irrigation in the Oahe project was to be our compensation for giving up this one-half million acres of land. Thus, when we come before your committee today, and we appear before the Congress, we are asking for less than 1 acre of irrigation development for each 2 acres of our land that is now inundated because of the development of this great natural resource.

The portion of this irrigation, an area of 190,000 acres which would be provided for in this initial stage construction of the Oahe irriga-