

From virtually every State of the Union now, we get in one way or another alarming signals, little bronze lights flashing, about the problems of maintenance of good, clean, pure water in adequate quantities.

So the people of South Dakota have expressed their strong desire to develop this great water resource. As an indication of this desire and support for the development of irrigation and other benefits which will accrue from this Oahe unit, may I cite the following:

The Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict was formed at the 1960 general election with 85.5 percent of the electors voting for its formation. This subdistrict encompasses a 15.5 county area which includes, but is much larger than the Oahe unit area.

In this election, the local people voted to levy one-tenth of a mill on taxable property in the area. In the 1966 election these same voters voted to grant contractual authority to the subdistrict, a board of directors, by over a 75 percent majority.

I am sure that those of us who live by the vote and die by the vote recognize that majorities of 75 percent and 85 percent are highly gratifying and hard to come by. And certainly it indicates a great deposit of confidence and a great reservoir of support for this project which we now are presenting to you.

I am sure that chairman of the conservancy district will tell us much more about this in detail, and Secretary Holum also, from the standpoint of the Bureau of Reclamation, will add to this discussion, especially from the standpoint of the engineering and economic feasibility.

Mr. Chairman, I don't want to delay the committee any longer. We have two Members in the House from South Dakota, our Governor and some fine, distinguished citizens representing different walks of life and different areas of activity.

I conclude simply by saying this is a team play. The State is united. The congressional delegation is united. The people are united. They are asking that this committee, as expeditiously as possible, vote its approval so we can get on with the authorization of the Oahe unit of this great Missouri River Basin development program.

Thank you very much.

Senator BURDICK. Thank you, Senator Mundt.

Our next witness will be Congressman Berry, from South Dakota.

STATEMENT OF HON. E. Y. BERRY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. BERRY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I represent the Second Congressional District of South Dakota.

I would ask, Mr. Chairman, that I be permitted to file my statement for the record.

Senator BURDICK. Your entire statement will be made part of the record at the end of your remarks.

Mr. BERRY. I would like to briefly express my appreciation to this committee and the members of this committee for holding these hearing today, and the hope that the committee will pass this on to the full committee and the Senate floor for passage during this year.

This is the beginning of a great climax that has been in process of development in the Missouri River Basin for 25 or 30 years.