

I should point out, Mr. Chairman, that while the House Interior Committee, upon which I have served for 17 years, will not be holding initial hearings any more this year, they have authorized field hearings to be held in South Dakota on the project October 27, 28, and 29, so if it is possible to pass this legislation in the Senate this year, we should be able to get early passage next year.

I would like to give just a short history that has not already been covered by Senators Mundt and McGovern.

It was just 30 years ago last month that 13 of us gathered together in South Dakota to organize the South Dakota Reclamation Association, the purpose being to put Missouri River water on dry South Dakota and North Dakota land.

It was about the same time, Mr. Chairman, that the North Dakota Reclamation Association was incorporated.

In 1939, as a member of the State senate, I helped get legislation through authorizing the Missouri River States Committee, a committee to be composed of the Governor and one other member from each of the Upper Missouri River Basin States at that time, and whose purpose it was to help bring reclamation into our two States.

We worked closely with the Bureau of Reclamation under Glenn Sloan, who was at that time Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. The Sloan plan was devised about that time, the plan being to pump water out of the Missouri River just below the Montana-North Dakota line, pump it up over the divide into the Sorres Basin and then bring it down the divide between the Red River on the north and the James River on the south, and returning what flow had not been used into the Missouri. The purpose was to irrigate on both sides.

Then, about the same time, the Corps of Engineers, then under Colonel Pick, was working out a plan for flood control. Every 4 or 5 years we would have a devastating flood on the Missouri River. The Corps of Engineers was planning a system of mammoth dams to provide flood control, but it was not until the flood of 1944 that these two plans were amalgamated.

As Senator Mundt indicated, the Pick-Sloan plan, as we called it, was then devised. This plan would provide mammoth dams and at the same time provide the States that were losing a million acres of land through inundation to supplement production by providing these irrigation programs.

We met, Governor Sharpe and I, in Omaha and two things were devised: The Pick-Sloan plan for the prevention of these mammoth floods which were doing millions and millions of dollars worth of damage down on the Missouri River, and also the formation of the inter-agency committee composed only of the Governors.

These dams have now been completed, Mr. Chairman, as you well know. Now the thing that remains is to have the passage of this legislation. The Garrison diversion legislation was passed 2 years ago, I believe it was, the authorization passed and the appropriation starting the work has already been passed. The one thing that remains is this Oahe reclamation project.

When this is completed and South Dakota has been compensated for the half-million acres it has given up, this great project will have been completed.

I would just say this: We remember the words of Robert W. Service. He said "A promise made is a debt unpaid."