

Today this committee is completing, bringing about the climax, if you please, of a promise made in 1944, which has developed and is being developed to completion.

Again I want to thank this committee, and I want to assure you the House will follow rapidly on your steps if you will just take the lead during this year.

Thank you very much.

Senator BURDICK. I am pleased to know that the House will follow. Will that be in January?

Mr. BERRY. February.

(The prepared statement referred to follows:)

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

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is E. Y. Berry and I represent the Second Congressional District of South Dakota which is the area of the state where a great part of this reclamation dream will unfold. It is a great pleasure for me to appear before the Committee and urge favorable passage of legislation authorizing this project because it is a project I have lived with day after day for more than thirty years.

I often recall when in the fall of 1939 a dozen other South Dakotans and I met in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, to organize the South Dakota Reclamation Association which has spearheaded the Missouri River Development program ever since.

It was my privilege to be appointed to serve with the then Governor Harlan J. Bushfield when the Missouri River States Committee was organized, the purpose of which was to organize the states of the upper Missouri River to work for development of the vast Missouri River basin. I served on that committee until the Interagency Committee was organized. This was composed only of the Governors of the various states, but by that time the Flood Control Act of 1944 had been passed by the Congress.

The first plan for development was outlined by the Bureau of Reclamation under Glen Sloan and provided for taking water from the Missouri, pumping it up on the divide and bringing it down in a great canal through North and South Dakota using it for irrigation all the way down until it was returned to the river at about Yankton in my state.

At the same time the Corps of Engineers had a plan of development. They proposed large earthen dams on the main stem of the river to control flood waters. Floods were doing millions of dollars in damage to such cities as Sioux City, Iowa; Omaha, Nebraska; and St. Louis, Missouri, to say nothing of the damage done almost annually to farm lands and towns along the river bottom.

The Missouri River States Committee and later the Interagency Committee worked as a liaison organization in helping to develop the Pick-Sloan plan which united these two great programs. This plan provides great earthen dams to control floods and pumping facilities for irrigation of large acreages in the upper states to supplant the million acres flooded forever to provide flood protection in the lower reaches of the river. The Garrison Reclamation project in North Dakota has already been authorized. These identical bills in the Senate and identical bills in the House provide for irrigation development in South Dakota to supplant the half million acres used for reservoir purposes in our state.

The overall plan is devised for five basic purposes—flood control, navigation, power production, irrigation and recreation.

The first step in taming the Big Muddy was in the construction of a series of multi-purpose dams. These dams had to furnish a wide variety of benefits to the greatest number of people. Now that we have tamed the wild Missouri, the question remains as to how to put this giant to work.

The construction of these dams has meant expanding of water recreation industry that has surpassed even the most optimistic hopes of a decade ago. We have also captured the great power of these reservoirs and are providing low cost hydro-generated electricity for large Midwest areas. Flood control potential of the Missouri River Basin plan for the main stream has been realized and the