

Of these projected costs, water users and the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict would pay \$33.4 million over fifty years. The balance of \$174 million would be repaid from the Missouri River Basin project power revenues.

Engineers have evaluated that direct benefits will exceed costs in a ratio of 1.6 to 1. When calculable secondary benefits are considered, the benefit-cost ratio is 2.5 to 1.

The citizens of the state and of this Conservancy District have indicated their overwhelming interest in this project over the past three decades. There are others here today who will also testify in support of this project including the duly elected officers of the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict and many others.

As the Congressman from the District which includes a very large portion of this project, I completely and wholeheartedly recommend the committee's approval of S. 6. Barring unforeseen difficulties the House Irrigation Subcommittee will hold field hearings on October 27, 28 and 29 on the identical bill, H.R. 27 which I introduced in the House on the opening day of the session.

It is my sincere hope that this subcommittee will report S. 6 to the full committee without delay and that it may have Senate passage before the adjournment of the Senate this year. Such action could guarantee early passage by the House next year and possibly an appropriation next year to start this great project on its way.

South Dakota has given much to the Missouri River development program. We have given a half million acres to protect the cities and farm land below from floods. Increasing production in the reclamation area is the only way our state can be compensated for the thousands of productive acres it has given up.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, for your attention.

Senator BURDICK. Our next witness will be Congressman Ben Reifel.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BEN REIFEL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

Mr. REIFEL. Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the committee. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today to urge support of a project that is most important to South Dakota.

I know you have all been students of the Missouri Basin project for quite some time. The senior Senator, Karl Mundt, and our junior Senator, George McGovern, and my colleague in the House, Congressman Berry, have done an excellent job of reviewing the facts for you and we have a number of people from our State who have traveled some 1,500 miles to give their testimony.

Therefore, in the interest of saving time, I would like to submit my statement in full for the record, preceded by a brief summary, if I may.

Senator BURDICK. Without objection, the entire statement will be made part of the record at the end of your summary.

Mr. REIFEL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is extremely important to the economy of our State and the future of our United States that construction of the Oahe irrigation project be started as soon as possible.

This irrigation project will greatly enhance the economy of our State and will be a major step for our Nation in preparing for obvious result of the continuing population explosion; that is, for more mouths to feed in all parts of the world.

The Oahe unit has the enthusiastic support of the people of South Dakota, as has been indicated here, and that has been my observation as I travel across the State. The Bureau of Reclamation of the Interior Department and the Bureau of the Budget have stated their