

Senator HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I couldn't help thinking, though I was precluded from being here earlier, when reference is made to the tax base and the negative effect that has been brought about by the inundation of these lands, of a similar situation in Wyoming when lands passed from private into public ownership.

At that time I happened to be a county commissioner for Wyoming's least populous county. Despite the fact that we had significant Federal ownership prior to the enlargement of a national park, more of our lands were taken out.

At the present time I think our county is about 97 percent federally owned. I was trying to assess the impact that this loss of income from lands private which have passed into public ownership would have. I was interested to learn that as these farms and ranches that were in the area of Federal expansion passed from private to public ownership and went off the tax rolls, fully two-thirds of the tax contribution that was being made by those landowners came about through taxes on private property, on livestock, on machinery, that sort of thing.

I think we are prone oftentimes to overlook that fact. I suggest that to those who will be considering this problem should not be oblivious to the fact that South Dakota suffered not alone from the taking of the land and its removal from the tax rolls, but all the other things that were there and that were made possible by the use of that land.

I want to say I certainly will do my best to support South Dakota in seeing this project become a reality.

Senator BURBICK. Thank you very much.

Our next witness will be the Governor of South Dakota, the Honorable Nils Boe.

STATEMENT OF HON. NILS A. BOE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Governor BOE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I might say I have hesitancy in continuing with a statement after the eloquent and cogent statements that have already been made by the members with respect to the project under discussion. I want to thank the members for the observations they have made, and which are so fully correct. I fear that probably throughout the course of this hearing the words that may be expressed by the witnesses to an extent may become somewhat repetitious. It is for that reason that I will intentionally try to make my statement brief.

As the leader of the delegation from the State of South Dakota, I would like to allow many of those individuals to have the opportunity to speak from their hearts how they feel with regard to this vital project which has been so close to them and for which they have worked so ardently over the course of many, many years.

I speak, however, for the entire State of South Dakota. As expressed by Senator Mundt and Senator McGovern, I wish to reiterate this is not a partisan matter. This has been probably the most bipartisan project that has ever been undertaken by the people of South Dakota, supported by all, not only geographically but by people throughout the entire portion of the State, in the Southeast, the Southwest, the North, and the South, the East, and the West. It is for this reason that I feel that such a project should be given the fullest and most earnest con-