

No other program could have a greater impetus upon the growth and development, not only to a particular area, but to our entire State, than this irrigation project now being considered, Senate bill 6.

In so doing we are considering the utilization within the State of South Dakota of one of our own resources—water—which, indeed, is one of our most precious resources.

I know that all of you distinguished gentlemen are familiar with the history of the development and construction of the four mainstem dams upon the Missouri River within the State of South Dakota.

Three purposes were in the minds of those men and women, some of whom are no longer with us, as they envisioned the fulfillment of their dream to harness and utilize the waters of the mighty Missouri. First, flood control, the control of water as it flowed through the State of South Dakota and on into the regions bordering our State to the south; second, the generation of hydroelectric power; and, third, irrigation.

I think all must agree that the objective of flood control has been successfully accomplished. Through the help of the Federal Government, the Rural Electrification Administration, and other departments and agencies of our Federal Government, electricity has been brought to the rural areas of the State of South Dakota, as well as to industry and to the cities of our State. The development of the third and ultimate objective, irrigation, remains to be accomplished.

To date the Federal Government has spent billions to help improve the economic conditions in the various areas of our United States of America. Vast appropriations are annually made to produce a climate whereby the economic growth and development of these respective regions of our country might be stimulated.

I am sure that I share the full concurrence of all who testify with me today in support of S. 6 when I state that no device, no program, could be prepared or established which would be of greater economic impact to the State of South Dakota than the authorization and the implementation of the Oahe irrigation project. Through this means our State and our people could not only climb the ladder of success and prosperity without further assistance, but could also contribute immeasurably to the needs and wants of people not only within our country but throughout the world.

Yes, the land that has been taken for the storage of the waters created in these giant reservoirs has been paid for in dollars and cents insofar as the individual owners thereof are concerned.

As Senator Jordan has already indicated, I certainly would urge that each of you bear in mind that these storage reservoir areas now comprise and total approximately one-half million acres of land—land which has been taken out of production, land which has been forever taken from the tax rolls.

The total storage potentiality within these giant reservoirs within our State is 34 million acre feet. Annually, the volume of water that flows out of the State of South Dakota and on into the States to the south and into the Gulf of Mexico totals from 17 to 30 million feet.

In speaking for the citizens of the State of South Dakota and in support of S. 6, may I state that in so doing we do not seek or covet the resources of any other region or area. We only ask for the right