

**STATEMENT OF HON. KENNETH HOLUM, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WATER AND POWER DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR; ACCOMPANIED BY JAMES T. CASEY, ACTING CHIEF, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT DIVISION; HAROLD E. ALDRICH, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, BILLINGS, MONT.; AND PRESTON FUNKHOUSER, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER, HURON, S. DAK., BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

Mr. HOLUM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. It has been a real pleasure for me to be in the hearing room this morning and to hear the excellent statements made to this committee by all of the members of the South Dakota congressional delegation and by our Governor who preceded me. It is also a pleasure to come to this table, having already heard not only bipartisan support from my home State of South Dakota for this project, but also having heard expressions of sympathy and interest from both sides of the table as far as this project is concerned.

It is always a pleasant experience for a spokesman of the executive branch to come before a congressional committee in that spirit. That is, of course, the way in which we have approached conservation and water resources development activities during the 6½ years that I have been with the Department of the Interior.

I would be less than candid if I didn't say that having appeared before this committee on innumerable occasions, supporting reclamation projects and general law, relating to water resource development all over the country, but more specifically in the 17 reclamation States, that all of these experiences have been pleasant and profitable.

All of the actions taken by the Congress during these 6½ years have been, I am sure, in the interest of the West and the total interest of the country, and we have moved ahead significantly with water resource development during this period.

I would be less than candid if I didn't say to you that it is a particular pleasure to come before you this morning in support of the first stage of the Oahe unit in my home State of South Dakota; and to have the people directly affected in the hearing room, prepared to appear before you later and supply the essential information that the Congress and the committee requires from those who must assume certain obligations in connection with this unit.

I know that these people here in the hearing room are friends and neighbors of mine from my home State of South Dakota, most of whom I have known intimately over a long period of time.

It is a unique pleasure for me to be here this morning speaking for the administration on behalf of the Oahe unit in South Dakota.

The committee has already heard substantial information with respect to the relationship between the Oahe unit and the Garrison diversion unit authorized by the Congress in 1965, and earlier by the Flood Control Act of 1944. The Flood Control Act was a significant and historic action by the Congress, laying out a truly multipurpose water resource development project for the 10 States of the Missouri Basin.

The Missouri Basin is, from a geographical point of view—the land mass involved—the largest river basin in our country.