

Mr. HOLUM. Development of this initial stage plan will deplete the flow of the Missouri River below the confluence of the James River by about 303,000 acre-feet annually which is about 1.3 percent of the average annual flow of the Missouri River at that point.

Senator MCGOVERN. May I interrupt at this point?

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Secretary Holum if the reduction in the amount of water in the river as a result of the proposed irrigation project will create a situation in which we have a conflict with the navigation interests, or has agreement been reached on that point?

Mr. HOLUM. There will be some consumptive use of water in the Oahe unit, just as there will be some consumptive use of water in the Garrison diversion unit. But this was all contemplated at the time the Flood Control Act was enacted in 1944.

I think it represents understandings between all of the States affected. Of course, except for the consumptive use, all of the return flows from the Oahe unit will reach the James River and be available for navigation flows in the lower Missouri River. We trust there will be no problem in that connection.

In fact, Mr. Casey reminds me that the Congress not only contemplated this at the time of the Flood Control Act, but they wrote it into law by enacting at that time the O'Mahoney-Milliken amendment, which made very clear the congressional intent in 1944.

Of course, that still is the law of the land and will continue to be.

Irrigation in the area proposed for development in the Oahe unit has been extremely limited because of inadequate surface supplies during the growing season and the limited ground water supply. Rainfall is neither timely nor adequate to realize the agricultural potential the land will have with a full water supply.

The cities and towns of the area rely on agriculture for their prosperity as much as farmers do themselves. Many towns in the area now lack suitable water for present domestic needs or future growth. Ground water, used extensively in many towns for a municipal supply, is highly mineralized and consequently of poor quality.

Industrial development and municipal growth in the James River Basin will depend to a large extent upon additional water being brought into the basin from an outside source.

The provision of a dependable water supply for irrigation will remove the present high risk associated with dryland farming, improve the agricultural base, stimulate and stabilize the overall economy of the area to the benefit of the State and Nation.

The present heavy reliance on small grain farming will, with irrigation, substantially shift to more diverse crops associated with the production and fattening of livestock.

The principal crops raised under irrigation development will be forage and grain crops for livestock feed. These would include corn for grain and silage, sorghums, alfalfa, rotation pasture, and some small grain for the crop rotation. There would also be some cash crops raised which will include sugar beets, potatoes, soybeans, and other truck crops on a relatively small acreage.

The National Park Service has developed a coordinated plan for outdoor recreation. Recreational development would be associated with the Blunt, Cresbard, and Byron Reservoirs, North Scatterwood Lake, and a reservoir formed by the recently completed James Diversion Dam.