

Senator JORDAN. Is this high or low as compared to the percentage that the irrigators themselves will pay when compared with other projects?

Mr. HOLUM. It is about average, Senator Jordan. There are areas of the country, particularly the Pacific Southwest, Arizona and California, having a year-round growing season where the irrigators pay a substantially higher percentage.

There are other areas, irrigation projects in higher country, where they have shorter growing seasons where the irrigators pay less. So I would say it is about average.

Senator JORDAN. And the water to be diverted for irrigation purposes, 563,900 acre feet, I believe someone testified, would be at the rate of about 3 acre-feet per acre? Is this the application for that area, about 3 acre-feet?

Mr. HOLUM. Yes, about that.

Senator JORDAN. And the irrigators will pay back \$10 per acre per year. Is that what you said?

Mr. HOLUM. Yes.

Senator JORDAN. Of which \$6.80 will be for operation and maintenance, leaving \$3.20 to apply on the amortization of the principal sum.

Mr. HOLUM. That is correct.

Senator JORDAN. The water at canalside on this project will cost a little over \$3 per acre-foot, a very reasonable cost, it seems to me.

Mr. HOLUM. Representing the ability of the water irrigators to pay for water.

Senator JORDAN. What is the evaporation loss from a reservoir like Oahe? What is the annual evaporation loss?

Mr. HOLUM. About 3 feet per year.

Senator JORDAN. In other words, with a reservoir that inundates a half million acres and an evaporation loss of 3 feet in a year, the annual loss from evaporation will be a million and a half feet.

Mr. HOLUM. These are Corps of Engineers' reservoirs. I don't know if we have those figures or not. Mr. Funkhouser?

Mr. FUNKHOUSER. We don't have the figure for Oahe Reservoir but the estimate for the mainstem reservoirs in North and South Dakota is over 1 million acre-feet per year.

Senator JORDAN. And the diversion of additional waters for reclamation, of which this is the initial 190,000, will not do violence to the navigation program downstream?

Mr. HOLUM. No; we think not. This was all very carefully considered by the Congress in 1944 when the Flood Control Act was enacted. The Congress made it clear at that time that it did consider it most important that the upstream States, the States where the water is being produced, where the economy needed the assistance, should have the right to use that water within the States, by writing into the Flood Control Act the O'Mahoney-Milliken amendment.

Senator JORDAN. Are any costs included in this initial 190,000 that will not be necessary to allocate to an additional unit that might be brought in? In other words, are we to expect that additional units that come in will cost \$1,000 an acre or up?