

4. Expand seed growing and processing. South Dakota soil is ideal for seed and vegetable production, provided moisture is assured.

The impact of irrigation would extend nationwide as machinery, fuel, and supplies are required by the farming areas. There would be, of course, a continuing demand for tractors and all lines of farm machinery.

In addition to the farming and farm-related impact, an assured supply of industrial water would also enhance the competitive position of South Dakota communities in seeking nonfarm industries.

With the advent of irrigation, there will be more job opportunities in industry for South Dakota young men, many of whom are now leaving the State. Out on the Great Plains area we have the space, the talent, and the skills. We need more industry to create more jobs and water flowing onto our land from the Missouri would be a great step in attracting more industry to the State.

The total economic impact of the construction of the Oahe irrigation unit makes it the most important single project in the history of this area. I urge immediate authorization of the project.

Thank you.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you, Mr. Schmitt, for a very fine statement.

Mr. SCHMITT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator McGOVERN. Our next witness will be Mr. S. E. Sewell, vice president of Northwestern Public Service Co., Huron, S. Dak.

**STATEMENT OF S. E. SEWELL, VICE PRESIDENT, NORTHWESTERN
PUBLIC SERVICE CO., HURON, S. DAK.**

Mr. SEWELL. Mr. Chairman, my name is S. E. Sewell. I am vice president of Northwestern Public Service Co., an electric and natural gas utility serving 108 communities in eastern South Dakota with electricity and 27 communities with natural gas in South Dakota and Nebraska. The headquarters of our company is located in Huron, S. Dak.

In addition to my capacity here today as a spokesman for industry, I would like to add that my interest in reclamation and water development is one of many years standing. I am currently a member of the executive committee of our State reclamation association, and was privileged to serve as its State president in 1966.

On behalf of my company, Northwestern Public Service Co., it is my pleasure to appear before you today to urge support for the speedy authorization by Congress of the first stage development plan for irrigation in Spink and Brown Counties of South Dakota. I believe it is especially urgent that your committee and Congress give early approval of this most important project. Your support for this project should come at this time for a number of reasons.

1. You will be fulfilling an obligation assumed by Congress in 1944 when the Flood Control Act was enacted by your body. When the large multipurpose dams were constructed on the Missouri River, it was clearly understood by the people of South Dakota that the major benefit for our State would come from the ultimate irrigation of hundreds of thousands of acres within our State.