

Each year we find a great number of South Dakota's young people leaving the State to seek employment elsewhere. This is a tremendous resource loss to South Dakota.

South Dakota State University at Brookings indicates that each year only 35 to 45 percent of their graduates find employment in the State. Dr. B. D. Perkins, professor of management and director of business placement in the School of Business, State University of South Dakota at Vermillion reports that only 19 percent of the 1966-67 business graduates will start their careers in South Dakota. Many of these young people desire to remain in the State close to home and family.

However, in order to find jobs commensurate with their education they must look beyond the boundaries of their State. South Dakota needs new capital, new wealth, new economic opportunities which can only come, in my opinion, through the development of our land and water resources.

While the project would be constructed primarily to provide water service for irrigation we recognize there are many other benefits which would accrue to the State. In 1962, the South Dakota Department of Health released a report prepared for the subdistrict regarding the present and future needs of 67 public water supplies within the subdistrict.

This report indicated that on the basis of the then published Public Health Service drinking water standards, 59 public water supplies had unsatisfactory quality water for general domestic use.

In many instances the amount of water available would not be sufficient to provide for projected population increases to the year 2000. Construction of the initial stage of the Oahe unit would make water available to 17 municipalities in or near the unit.

In South Dakota, recreation ranks second only to agriculture in the State's economy. Water would be made available through the Oahe unit facilities for fish and wildlife developments at 18 locations. These new and improved areas would stimulate the sale of outdoor water-based sporting equipment, thus adding incalculable dollars to the State and Nation's economic picture.

There also would be the addition of four new recreation areas to help satisfy the increased demand for recreational facilities evidenced on a national level.

Contained in the Oahe unit report is a plan to channelize and straighten the James River from approximately Columbia to Redfield. This would result in a reduction of river miles from 120 to 54. This improved channel would be designed primarily to care for the project's irrigation return flows.

It would, however, be available to handle a portion of the natural spring floodflows thus relieving, in part, flooding from the river which occurs nearly every year.

In 1966, the James River Flood Control Association, an organization of farmers living along the river, conducted a survey from among their membership in an attempt to ascertain the damages which resulted from these floods.

According to the survey total loss to crops and pastureland in 1966 amounted to \$1,365,000. This figure includes the cost of repairing or replacing dikes and fences but does not include losses to roads, bridges, public parks, and wildlife areas. The flood control features planned in