

a feed supply within the State. This has been so devastating to South Dakota, that when we do not have the rainfall there is no feed supply. This is to insure a feed supply for livestock, yes.

Senator McGOVERN. I think your statement is very complete. I don't know how it could be improved upon. Many of the questions that we might ask you about it have been brought out this morning and there is no point repeating that line of questioning. We do want to thank you for your most helpful statement. It is going to be an important part of the hearing record.

Mr. HOLSCHER. Thank you.

Senator McGOVERN. I neglected to point out when we resumed our hearings this afternoon that it is against the rules of the Senate for a committee to be in session when the Senate is in session, but we got unanimous consent of the Senate to meet today during the time the Senate is in session on the grounds that many of the witnesses here, in fact all the witnesses, have come a great distance. The Members of the Senate wanted to accommodate you.

Our next witness is the president of South Dakota State University, Dr. Hilton Briggs.

Dr. Briggs, who is an extremely busy man, took the time to fly down here and give us his testimony. We certainly welcome you before this committee, Dr. Briggs.

STATEMENT OF HILTON M. BRIGGS, PRESIDENT, SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, BROOKINGS

Mr. BRIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is a real privilege to have the opportunity to come before you and this committee to testify. It is a special privilege to follow Mr. Fred Holscher, with whom our staff has had the privilege of working very closely during the last few years on this very important project.

South Dakota State University, the State's land-grant university with its Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, supports the Oahe irrigation unit. Its impact on the economy of South Dakota and the welfare of its people will be tremendous. The effect nationally will be considerable also.

Agriculture is the State's primary industry. The economic development of South Dakota and the income of South Dakotans will continue to depend on agriculture's growth. But water is a limiting factor. South Dakota needs the stability the Oahe irrigation unit would make possible.

The agricultural revolution has caused the farmer to enlarge his farm unit either by increasing acres, intensifying production, or both. This has increased the risk and also the migration of farmers to the cities.

In South Dakota this migration has resulted in outmigration to other States, since it has few cities and industries which can absorb many of these farmers.

Between 1959 and 1964, nearly 6,000 farm operators and their families left the farm in South Dakota. Since 1954, one of every five farm operators has changed occupations or retired without being replaced.

This outmigration is causing a series of repercussions which is affecting the social and economic base of the community, county, and State.