

If the megalopolis envisioned in the year 2000 becomes a reality, each person's "living room" will be only a few square feet. Millions of children will grow up without an appreciation of space and nature. The social cost defies the imagination.

Gentlemen, I must remind you that if South Dakota residents divided their State equally, each man, woman, and child would have about 70 acres of living room.

Something can be done about this imbalance. We must not accept as inevitable the staggering social and economic costs of a continuation of this trend. In a Dallastown, Pa., speech, President Johnson asked:

Must we export our youth to the cities faster than we export our crops and our livestock to market?

Surely American resourcefulness and ingenuity can stem this tide. The problems will be many and the methods challenging.

The Oahe irrigation unit will not solve this national dilemma—but it will be a significant step toward correcting the imbalance. Congress might well consider ways this correction of imbalance can be accelerated. The objective would be to develop a concentration of agriculturally oriented industries in areas of concentrated and dependable agricultural production.

Gentlemen, in my discussion of the Oahe irrigation unit as it affects the national interest, I have stepped far beyond usual considerations. I have done this because I believe that every possible tool should be used to combat the pressing problems that face our Nation and the world. Projects such as Oahe area, I believe, one of the small but important tools.

South Dakota needs the Oahe irrigation project now—so does the United States. It is needed to stabilize the States's economy and its social institutions. It is needed as a means to help decentralize industry.

It is needed to give the Nation a better balance of population. It is needed for the diversity of foods it could produce to help feed the world's increasing population.

Senator McGOVERN. That was a superb statement. I think that final paragraph is as effective and as moving a summary of the reasons why we need this project as I have seen anywhere. I really wraps up all of the major ideas.

I am glad to see you stress the important role that a project of this kind can play in doing something about the imbalance in our population. I can't conceive of this country permitting the kind of a situation to develop that you have indicated will develop if we don't, as a matter of conscious policy, prevent this accelerated movement from the rural States into the great cities, people in one continuous strip of the country from Boston to Washington with a density of 2,600 persons per square mile.

It seems to me to be beyond comprehension. I think you are quite correct, that Oahe is a project that we not only need in South Dakota, but it is a project which will benefit the whole Nation. We have to do more to make rural areas attractive to our young people, instead of exporting them into the cities.

Mr. BRIGGS. Man is the only beast in the past who has ever helped design his own future and man at the present is making his future history.