

You have already heard today from the technical experts who have shown the economic feasibility of this project, so I will not burden this committee with a restatement of their conclusions.

I would like to speak for just a moment about the benefits to accrue to South Dakota, to our region, and to our Nation as a whole, should Senate bill 6 be enacted.

For far too long South Dakota has been exporting at an alarming rate her greatest resource—people. A look at farm census figures for the last 30 years will dramatically underscore this fact. When the entire Oahe unit is completed, it will mean an increase of 1,500 more farms, 500 of which should result from authorization of this initial stage. The entire project would mean a population increase for South Dakota of 37,000, 14,000 of which will result from the initial stage alone.

When the entire Oahe project is completed \$185 million annually should be put into the national economy; \$71 million a year alone will be generated by the completion of the first stage of the Oahe project. These \$185 million annually will add to the economy of the entire Nation. Goods, services, supplies, and products, purchased from the industrial and trade centers of our Nation will find a new market in our region because of the completion of this unit.

The Nation today is deeply disturbed by the migration of the rural population to the urban centers of this country, thereby creating tremendous new problems. When the entire Oahe project is completed, new jobs will have been created for thousands of people helping to reverse the trend of moving to the cities.

New taxes in the amount of \$15 million will be generated annually for local, State, and Federal Government, to meet governmental service responsibilities.

South Dakota's economy is agricultural, or an agriculturally related business enterprise. Figures show that in excess of 90 percent of our economy is agriculturally oriented. Being located in the food-producing Midwest we have a responsibility to the rest of the Nation to help produce the food and fiber necessary to feed, not only this country, but to help fulfill our responsibilities to a hungry world.

Our region of the country is known as being semiarid. Precipitation ranges from about 17 to 19 inches annually. Because of the short growing season, averaging approximately 140 days a year, and because we cannot count on it to rain when needed, there is a tremendous interest in irrigation in our region.

The Flood Control Act of 1944 was a multipurpose project, designed to develop the Missouri River Basin for the purposes of flood control, hydroelectric generation, irrigation, and navigation. At this time approximately 90 percent of the facilities in all areas, except irrigation, have been completed.

As Senator McGovern stated to the Senate last March 2, South Dakotans were willing to make the sacrifice of their land for the development of the Missouri Basin projects, because they believed that the development of the Missouri Basin was in the public interest, and because they also knew that the loss of their land would ultimately be repaid with the economic thrust of a half-million-acre irrigation project.

The people of South Dakota expressed their overwhelming support of this project by the formation and support of conservancy districts