

When considering my own project, I wanted to prove something that is economically important to all landowners and farmers. The fields could be large if designed properly, for more efficiency of operation in the Oahe project. I wanted to prove one could use large, modern farm machinery. I have used all the same equipment as for dryland farming. There may have to be some modifications in time. I have proved that a system can be designed for a minimum amount of labor and attention. I pump water with electricity supplied by Northern Electric Co-op. I use gated pipe, and flood irrigate.

My irrigation project is being used for research by South Dakota State University. Research is being carried on regarding soil deficiency that shows up due to land leveling in the James River Valley, and much of this phase of a whole new era in agriculture will have been studied before irrigation comes. Many people are watching with keen interest and following closely the progress and results of this irrigation project. While it is a private project, it is creating a great deal of interest by the public.

The word that best describes why I am in favor of irrigation is "stability," the doing away with extreme yield fluctuations due to lack of moisture. Stability on the farms will mean stability in our entire area economy.

An important byproduct of the Oahe project will be through the improving of the James River Channel; that is, the deepening, widening, straightening, and shortening of the river from 119 to 54 miles. This will largely end the flooding almost annually of 20,000 acres of rich bottom lands, resulting in an estimated loss of \$1,500,000 per year to farmers and businesses in Brown and Spink Counties.

The great and worthy food for peace program in 1967 is a mere infant compared with the giant it will be in the year 2000, only 33 short years away. The Oahe project will be only half completed by that time, and the cry for food then will be deafening unless Congress approves the great Oahe project and many others like it in the very near years to come.

I urge the authorization of this important project so it may contribute to the welfare of present and future generations.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you very much, Mr. Gullikson. I think the dramatic story you tell about your own experiences with irrigation represents a compelling argument for moving ahead in other parts of the area. We appreciate your statement very much.

Mr. GULLIKSON. I would like to add that Dr. Fine is the head of the agronomy department at the State university. He was visiting this field about 10 days ago. He said that it is the best cornfield that he has seen anywhere in South Dakota this year, which I thought was quite a compliment to the irrigation system we are using.

Senator McGOVERN. It is a good compliment to the operator too.

Mr. GULLIKSON. Thank you.

Senator McGOVERN. Our next witness will be Mr. C. G. Bell, president, Spink Electric Cooperative, Doland, S. Dak.