

young people at the same time. That opportunity is embodied in the Oahe project, and the authorization of that project by this body and by the Congress of the United States.

I would like to thank the committee for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate bill 6.

Senator McGOVERN. We appreciate having your statement, Mr. Bell.

I have a statement here from James L. Grahl, manager of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative for inclusion in the record at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

**STATEMENT OF JAMES L. GRAHL, MANAGER, BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE**

My name is James L. Grahl. I am the General Manager of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a wholesale power supplier for 106 member rural electric cooperatives located in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Iowa. It gives me great pleasure to express to this committee, Basin Electric's support of S. 6, the Oahe Irrigation Project.

The Oahe irrigation unit, which will provide water for 190,000 acres of land already in production in Brown and Spink counties in South Dakota and supply at least a dozen cities and towns with municipal water systems, will have a tremendous effect on the economy of South Dakota.

Through the years, South Dakota has suffered periodically from severe drought. Of course, we are all too familiar with the economic losses that results from these conditions. The reduction in agricultural income, which is basic to South Dakota's economy, adversely affects all citizens of the State. Similarly, drought in a feed area often results in disposition of livestock in quantities which have depressing effects on markets. As a result the livestock industry in the Nation as a whole suffers. The development of the Oahe Irrigation unit will have a great impact and stabilizing effect on the economy of South Dakota and other agricultural states.

Mr. Chairman, other benefits will be realized in South Dakota with the passage of S. 6.

Industrial development has often been restricted because of limited water supplies in some of the towns and cities. We all realize that a basic criteria for sound industrial development is the ready availability of an adequate supply of water. With the passage of S. 6, new opportunities will be made available to many businessmen who wish to start new plants or increase the size of existing facilities.

Finally, private development of recreation facilities and the increase of wild-life in the Oahe irrigation area will be available to all citizens of our Nation. People are seeking outdoor recreation and I feel that South Dakota will be able to provide additional opportunities to sportsmen, vacationers, and hunters.

We appreciate the committee's having scheduled this hearing. We urge favorable Committee action on S. 6, the Oahe Irrigation Project.

Senator McGOVERN. Is Art Jones here? I have his name on the list, but I haven't seen him today. We know of his interest in this project.

The next witness will be Mr. Ben Radcliffe, president of the South Dakota Farmers Union, and a former member of the South Dakota State Legislature.

**STATEMENT OF BEN H. RADCLIFFE, PRESIDENT, SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION**

Mr. RADCLIFFE. Mr. Chairman, I am Ben H. Radcliffe, president of the South Dakota Farmers Union, an organization of over 14,000 South Dakota farm families, and the largest farm group in our State.

At the outset, I would like to emphasize that the South Dakota Farmers Union is in full support of efforts to bring the Oahe irriga-