

tion funding for Stage 1 of the Oahe James River Irrigation Project. For many years, the Valley Association has stated that this Project is an essential feature of the comprehensive Missouri Basin Development Program.

The people of South Dakota have long supported the comprehensive plan for the multiple purpose development of the Missouri Basin's water resources. At times, the citizens of the state have made decisions which they knew meant great personal sacrifice for South Dakota in order to protect the economic and social welfare of other down-stream states. South Dakotans have given up 509,000 acres of rich Missouri River bottom land for Missouri mainstem dams.

For South Dakota's economy and the national and international viewpoint, this Project is of critical necessity. Historians of the future, according to a group of world food scientists who met in Rome last year, will probably name 1965 as the year in which world famine began. Approximately 2 million persons will die from starvation this year in India alone. Food research experts predict the world's food supply must be doubled between 1965 and 1980. In our own country, population will increase an estimated 50% by the year 2000 or to a total of 300 million persons. In usable land area, the country faces an estimated potential deficit of 50 million acres even if all of the marginal land can be reclaimed and used. This is why the Mississippi Valley Association has stated for many years and once again emphasizes at this time that the Oahe Irrigation Project and other projects of this nature are of critical immediate importance to the welfare of this nation and the world.

Appearing before this Committee today are excellent representatives of the citizens of South Dakota who are competent to explain the Project in detail to the Committee and I do not intend to repeat or elaborate on their testimony.

It is sufficient to say that, because this Project is a part of the over-all comprehensive Missouri Basin Development Program, the several thousand members of our Association staunchly advocate a favorable recommendation by this Committee and authorization by Congress.

Senator MCGOVERN. The next witness will be Mr. Walter W. Johnson, secretary, Spink County Irrigation District, living in Frankfort, S. Dak.

STATEMENT OF WALTER JOHNSON, SECRETARY, SPINK COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. JOHNSON. Inasmuch as there are quite a few on the list to testify who follow me, I would like to file my report with the request that it be included in the proceedings.

I would like to make a few statements while I am here, if you please.

Senator MCGOVERN. We will be glad to handle it on that basis.

Mr. JOHNSON. Today, as at the hearing at Redfield, last May, there is a considerable amount of information given as to the acceptance of the idea of the Oahe project. That, of course, is included in my report. It is in there for the purpose of indicating that there are people who are really interested in this and in going ahead with this.

I just checked with the local ASC office at Redfield before I came down the day before yesterday. It was to refresh my memory. It seems that the years 1959, 1964 and 1966 were declared feed-and-grazing disaster years. Spink County was in the feed-and-grazing disaster area.

I would also like to point out that our farmers are aware of the need for irrigation, and right now there are about 60 irrigators who have developed some 10,000 to 12,000 acres for irrigation in Spink County where they could get suitable water.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is the opinion of the board of directors that when the time comes that these contracts will have to be voted upon, they again will vote favorably. We don't anticipate any