

Meanwhile, these same people again voted to keep faith with the future by increasing their taxes for the purpose of guaranteeing their obligations to operate and maintain the Oahe Unit.

Twenty-three years is a long time and now, we hope, the "meanwhiles" are over; self-help, self-sacrifice, self-determination have been demonstrated. Engineering feasibility has been demonstrated. Economic feasibility has been demonstrated, therefore, Mr. Chairman, we respectfully ask favorable consideration and approval of the legislation proposed by Senate Bill 6.

Senator McGovern. The bell that just rang was that long-awaited rollcall. I would suggest if you can bear with me that you just remain here. I will go and vote and be back within 15 minutes. If there is anyone who cannot wait, we will be glad to have your statement incorporated in the record if you will just stand and give your name.

Well, if not, I will return as quickly as I can. Before recessing, however, at this point in the record I will insert a statement filed with the committee by E. N. Duncan, manager, Agricultural Planning & Development, Great Northern Railway Co., St. Paul, Minn.

Now we will recess and I will return as quickly as I possibly can.

(A short recess was taken.)

(Mr. Duncan's statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF E. N. DUNCAN, MANAGER, AGRICULTURAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT,
GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY CO., ST. PAUL, MINN.

The Great Northern Railway has always been a strong supporter of feasible irrigation projects in the territory it serves.

We are advised that the Bureau of Reclamation's studies indicate the annual benefits for the Oahe Unit would exceed the estimated cost in the ratio of 2.5 to 1. This is a desirable project and will increase the economic base for the State of South Dakota. We are advised that the Oahe Unit would irrigate 190,000 acres in the Lake Plain area adjacent to the James River. This development would require an average of 563,900 acre-feet of water annually, most of which would be diverted from the Oahe Reservoir on the Missouri River. Present plans, in addition to irrigation, dictate the Unit would furnish municipal and industrial water supplies for 17 towns and cities in the project area and would provide flood control benefits and increase recreational opportunities, and in general benefit the state of South Dakota.

The Great Northern Railway would like to join its friends in supporting this most worthwhile project. We feel it is worthy of consideration and we would like to be included among those supporting it.

Senator McGovern. The subcommittee will be in order, please.

Is Mr. Gary Sharp in the room? Mr. Sharp is from Bath, S. Dak.

STATEMENT OF GARY SHARP, BATH, S. DAK.

Mr. SHARP. Thank you, Senator.

I graduated from Aberdeen Central High School and am now entering my second year at college at Brookings, S. Dak., as an agricultural major. My parents live on a farm located 5 miles east of Aberdeen, in the heart of the newly formed West Brown Irrigation District, so naturally I have been exposed to the many benefits of irrigation.

Two years ago I did some research on water development and the potential of irrigation for our area for a speech class in my high school. Upon the completion of my speech, my fellow classmates and my instructors brought forth a number of questions concerning opportunities derived through this vast project. I attempted to point out a few of the many job opportunities as well as recreational opportunities obtained primarily through water.