

Also, as a 10-year 4-H member, I have worked closely with conservation and have done various research projects concerning irrigation. Through my studies and presentations, the same caliber of questions have risen as did in my high school speech class: What opportunities will be available to my generation?

There is nothing I would rather do than go back to the family farm upon my completion of college. The Lord put us on this earth to help others and there isn't a finer way to help others than through farming. Farming is one of the two sources of new wealth known to mankind.

This is the same feeling that is present in the minds of many of my friends and neighbors. But this is not possible unless our fathers can afford to take on a partner. Realistically, we know there isn't enough income on the average farm today to support more than one family. If irrigation comes to our area, a greater income will arise to the small farmers and then my generation will have the opportunity to do the thing that they love the most. We will be able to go back to the farms and ranches where we were raised and raise our own families so they, too, may enjoy the many benefits of being raised on a farm.

As I have tried to point out, the interest and thought is definitely present in the minds of the people of my age. I truly believe that the majority of the people would stay in our area if there would be more and new opportunities available to them. I also believe that water will bring these ifs to a reality.

Our area is one of the finest areas in the world. Why not keep it that way and also better it by keeping our youth here where they are educated?

I, too, urge your strong support for the authorization of the Oahe project. Our future depends on it.

Thank you.

Senator McGOVERN. I think Gary Sharp is the only student testifying today, and we are happy to have his statement in the hearing record.

Mr. SHARP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator McGOVERN. The next witness will be Mrs. Myles Beckler, Route 1, Aberdeen.

We will be pleased to have your testimony.

STATEMENT OF MRS. MYLES BECKLER, ABERDEEN, S. DAK.

Mrs. BECKLER. Mr. Chairman, I am Mrs. Myles Beckler of Route 1, Aberdeen. As a farm wife, mother, and grandmother, I am vitally interested in the agricultural stability that irrigation would provide for our area.

We farm 960 acres about 6 miles northeast of Aberdeen which is in the heart of the West Brown Irrigation District. Our family includes one son who is married and in the service, another son just starting college, a daughter in high school, and a daughter in grade school.

The son in the service has his sights set on coming back to the farm some day in a father-son partnership arrangement. Under present dryland farming conditions, these plans are merely pipedreams, so to speak, as the present farm unit is not large enough to provide two families with an adequate standard of living and additional land is just simply not available in our area.