

Our second son, although not interested in staying on the farm, would like to remain in home territory, provided the work for which he plans to qualify himself is available.

Irrigation would mean that our daughters might also remain in our community to raise their families.

In order to provide our family with the kind of living we feel we are entitled to, it has been necessary for me to seek full-time employment outside the home. There are many other farm wives in our area who find themselves in the same position. I'm sure that they would join me in saying that there is nothing we would like more than to devote full time to our most important job as homemaker.

We have good soil. The lone factor that limits the production on our farm is adequate water. Therefore, I urge approval of the Oahe irrigation project so that my hopes and those of hundreds of other mothers in the Oahe project area may be realized.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you ever so much, Mrs. Beckler. Your statement will fill a needed place in the hearing record. We are glad to have you with us today.

Mrs. BECKLER. Thank you.

Senator McGOVERN. Our next witness will be Homer Engelhorn. Mr. Engelhorn is speaking for the East River Electric Power Cooperative.

**STATEMENT OF HOMER M. ENGELHORN, CONSERVATION
SPECIALIST, EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE**

Mr. ENGELHORN. Mr. Chairman, my name is Homer Engelhorn. I am conservation specialist for East River Electric Power Cooperative of Madison, S. Dak.

Our cooperative transmits electric power to 23 member systems for resale to nearly 50,000 rural families in the eastern two-fifths of South Dakota and three counties in southwestern Minnesota. To our knowledge, ours is the only rural electric system in the Nation with a full-time conservation specialist.

In this capacity during the last 4 years, it has been my experience to work closely with dozens of dedicated groups and hundreds of dedicated individuals who work ceaselessly for the principle of conservation—the use of all of our natural resources to the extent that man and society get the most benefit from them.

And it is out of this belief that I appear before you today to plead most strongly for the approval of Senate bill 6, the legislation which authorizes the Oahe water diversion segment of the Missouri River Basin project.

The overall project had its legislative origin in the Flood Control Act of 1944. The many benefits of the Oahe project—irrigation, stock water, municipal water, and the rest—were outlined at that time but it was not until recently that final technical plans were worked out.

In the meantime, nearly every other phase of the Missouri River Basin project has moved steadily ahead to the point at which we are seeing large-scale power generation, flood control, recreation, and navigation.

For the first time since the construction of the dams on the Missouri's main stem, water has been loosed this year over the spillways—water