

lost forever to the residents of the Missouri Basin who have need for that water.

This water, had we had the pumping and distribution facilities envisioned in S. 6, could have been put to beneficial use instead of being flushed downstream.

What are some of these needs? Municipal water supply is a problem in nearly every community in the Nation. Seventeen towns in the project area would receive an assured, long-term source of water supply if Oahe were real.

The two counties in which irrigation water will be available, Brown and Spink, lost 205 and 198 farm units, respectively, between 1959 and 1964, according to the U.S. Census of Agriculture.

The report which the Department of the Interior has submitted to this committee, which tells the feasibility of this project, states that irrigation in the proposed area can result in 500 additional farms, with 1,700 new people. Such an economic boost can partially reverse the present trend of loss of numbers of farms, with the resulting loss of jobs, business firms, income, and opportunity.

This Nation has been rocked to its very foundations during the past summer by the worst civil disorders in more than a century. There are many who cry that the problem is too-lenient law enforcement, or "outside agitators," but these explanations, even if based on a few shreds of evidence, do not approach the magnitude of the real causes of cities' problems in 1967.

The problem, reduced to its most basic terms, is one of overcrowding and facilities grotesquely overtaxed. The ability of city administrators to cope with layer upon layer of humanity, much of it of sharply differing race and background, has been unable to keep pace.

Approval of the Oahe project will do precious little to end the problem of people streaming from rural areas to the cities. The few dollars involved here, when taken in relation to the total cost of the meaningful reordering of population that is called for, are precious little. But this project and these dollars represent a significant step in the right direction.

Hundreds of Oahe projects and projects of other types will be needed throughout rural America, with associated expenditures measured by the billions instead of millions, to correct the gross inequities which have led to the mass flight of humanity from farm to city.

But the Federal Government can make this investment in the Oahe project a significant token of its determination to reorient the economy to prevent further erosion of rural America and the consequent strain on the facilities of metropolitan America.

Fifteen million Americans have fled for the cities since 1950. It is time to reverse directions.

Ever since 1961, the members of East River Electric have stated unequivocally their support for legislation which would authorize and fund the Oahe unit. They have restated this support at each annual meeting since, and they are, I can say without a quiver of doubt, doing exactly that on this very day at our 17th annual meeting out in South Dakota.

We stated our support to the subcommittee which was chaired by our Senator McGovern at Redfield, S. Dak., on May 22 of this year, at