

duction is concerned. Last year, however, we saw a period when granaries and cupboards were almost bare.

This spring, we saw the threat of a severe drought developing in the "breadbasket area" of mid-America. It was just in the nick of time that the weatherman smiled on us and good fortune again brought us bountiful crops.

Internationally, we are, however, facing a very severe food shortage problem. Each year, this problem steadily worsens. As past director of Lions International, in my work with Care, Inc., in the distribution of food, I am personally cognizant of the fact that many thousands of people die daily, as reported by the World Health Organization, because of either the complete lack of food or insufficient quantities of it.

Time is of the essence in the authorization of this project. Our Nation's No. 1 weapon and asset in fighting the evil forces of the world has been our abundant supply of food. I might add that as I was listening to the testimony today, I calculated that the cost of this project would only be the equivalent of 3 days' fighting in Vietnam.

We should not think so much in terms of national surplus food production as we should think in terms of not producing adequately for the world's needs.

Since there is a period involved, a lag phase so to speak, from the time a project is authorized to the time it can be brought to full production, a period being anywhere from 10 to 20 years, it is the recommendation of the business community of South Dakota that this project receive immediate authorization because it is not only in the best interests of South Dakota and our Nation but of the entire world.

Mr. SCHOCK. That completes my remarks.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you so much for your excellent statement, Mr. Schock.

I am glad that you and other witnesses have alluded to this food challenge that faces us around the world. It is one that is going to become more of a challenge and more serious in the years ahead.

(The prepared statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT BY AL SCHOCK, PAST PRESIDENT, SIOUX FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; PAST VICE PRESIDENT, SIOUX FALLS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION; PAST PRESIDENT, SOUTH DAKOTA RECLAMATION AND WATER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION; PRESIDENT, TERRACE PARK DAIRIES, INC., OF SOUTH DAKOTA; PRESIDENT, NORDICA FOODS COMPANY

Mr. Chairman, I speak in behalf of the business community of South Dakota, the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce, and the Sioux Falls Industrial Development Foundation as past president of the South Dakota Reclamation and Water Development Association and as a farmer farming land in McPherson County in northern South Dakota.

Our company employs approximately 400 persons, most of them ex-farm boys, in the state of South Dakota. We purchase milk from approximately 400 Grade A milk producers. We are in very close touch with the economic problems of the state of South Dakota and its economy. The South Dakota business community wholeheartedly endorses the Oahe Irrigation Project.

The other organizations named above have, on many occasions, passed resolutions supporting the project in its entirety. When the big dams were created on the mainstem of the Missouri River, South Dakota gave up much of its most productive land. To date, the big dams have primarily benefited the large metropolitan communities located in the states south of South Dakota along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Prior to the construction of the dams, these communities, on a rather frequent basis, lost millions of dollars worth of property in almost annual flood damage, and on occasion there was the loss of a human life.