

It is an absolute must to have some people dedicated to the future development of our resources for posterity. The problems we undertake will lead to the quality of life we will pass on to our children.

With the exception of 4 years in the U.S. Navy, Spink County has been my home for 60 years. So you must know I like living there, and it has given me a good life. But with the Oahe project a reality it can be a better place to live for more people.

I have been actively engaged in the promotion of the Oahe project since M. Q. Sharpe was Governor of South Dakota some 20 years ago. Matter of fact, Governor Sharpe is the one who explained the economic impact the Oahe project would have on South Dakota and the Nation, and he explained it so well that I hope I will be able to live to see it become a reality.

I want to close with this thought: When I see an irrigation project, big or small, I think of it as "God's beauty parlor."

Senator McGOVERN. We appreciate your statement.

I notice you say you are the father of six boys and one girl. Are they living in Spink County or in South Dakota?

Mr. JESSEN. No, I believe I mentioned that I had them living in Minnesota, Iowa, and Colorado. Did I skip that portion? I might have. Nevertheless, they do.

Senator McGOVERN. I think I was concentrating on the rest of your statement.

Why did they leave the State? Maybe that will shed some light on why we are losing young people from South Dakota.

Mr. JESSEN. There isn't anything I would rather have been able to do than to gainfully absorb my children in my farming operations. But with the larger equipment and each farmworker being able to till more acres, that became impossible. So, it became necessary for them to leave and compete against young people in other areas. Does that answer your question?

Senator McGOVERN. Yes.

Senator Mundt?

Senator MUNDT. I have one question I would like to ask. I am sorry that I had to miss this afternoon's session due to conflicting committee assignments. We happen to have the Deputy Prime Minister of India here visiting our Foreign Relations Committee, and we had some problems to take up with him.

I came away because they told me you were on the stand. I am glad that you are here appearing in the grand finale. I think you have made a fine statement to conclude the hearings.

I was intrigued by the conversation we had at lunch this noon, at our end of the table, when you were regaling us with your experience as an immigrant. You have had tangible experience with what water and sunshine will do on the good earth of South Dakota.

I would like to have you make a short statement, in summary, of the economic experience you have had with irrigation. This, after all, is going to be the final test. How does it work out economically for the farmers, the ranchers, and the townspeople of South Dakota? You have been there. You have had some experience. I would like to have you just summarize your experience like you did at noon at the table.

Mr. JESSEN. Thank you.

First of all, Senators—both of you—I want to tell you that I pioneered in irrigation practices. As a matter of fact, the Bureau of Recla-