

OAHE UNIT, MISSOURI RIVER BASIN PROJECT

MONDAY, MAY 22, 1967

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER RESOURCES OF THE
SENATE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,
Redfield, S. Dak.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m. in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Building in Redfield, S. Dak., Senator George McGovern presiding.

Present: Senators McGovern, Burdick, and Moss.

Also present: Roy Whitacre, professional staff member, and Benton J. Stong, special assistant.

Senator McGovern. Ladies and gentlemen, Governor Boe, Senator Moss, Senator Burdick. Our hearing will now please come to order.

We are here today for the purpose of starting the legislative processing of a measure that unquestionably is the biggest pending economic development in South Dakota's future, the Oahe irrigation project.

When I first went to the Senate some 4½ years ago, it was my privilege to be assigned to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture, two committees that I think deal with our major concerns in South Dakota. One is the production of food. The other committee is the principal legislative committee in charge of resource development in our State and across the country.

Those resource development opportunities are all very squarely within the province of the Interior Committee on which I serve with the two Senators present today who are our guests in South Dakota, Senator Moss, of Utah, on my left, and Senator Burdick, from our neighboring State of North Dakota, on my right. Senator Jordan of Idaho was also to have been with us, but illness made it impossible for him to make the trip.

The hearing today is on Senate bill S. 6, a bill authored by your two South Dakota Senators, Senator Mundt and myself.

I am going to read a little later a message that just arrived from Senator Mundt.

The legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the initial stage of the Oahe unit, James division, Missouri River Basin project.

Congressmen Reifel and Berry have introduced identical legislation in the House of Representatives.

This legislation provides for the diversion of water from the Oahe Reservoir just north of the city of Pierre through a system of canals, pumping plants, regulating reservoirs, small canals and laterals to reach an area of 190,000 acres of irrigable land that lies primarily in Brown and Spink Counties. Additional purposes include municipal and industrial water supply.