

STATEMENT OF A. B. GILBERTSON, MAYOR OF REDFIELD, S. DAK.

Mayor GILBERTSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Friends of Oahe irrigation, I am sure that the people of Redfield are very happy to have this meeting here today. You are always welcome to Redfield. I hope that the next time you do come to Redfield that you will be staying longer with us.

As mayor, I am representing the city of Redfield. I am presenting for your consideration the resolutions of the Redfield Business & Professional Womens Club, the Redfield City Council, the Redfield Kiwanis Club, the Redfield Lions Club, the Redfield Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the VFW Auxiliary.

All of these organizations strongly endorse the use of Oahe water for irrigation in this area.

The city of Redfield, a city of 3,000 people, is interest in Oahe basin water as a source of municipal water supply as well as water for irrigation to its surrounding farm area.

First, I would like to discuss our present supply of water for municipal purposes. The mineral content of our water supply is perhaps higher than any town or city in South Dakota. This has been a concern of our city council for some time.

Attached is a letter from Dr. E. J. Perry, city health officer, dated July 28, 1966, where he states that the excessive amount of dissolved salts presents problems for patients suffering from heart trouble or disturbances of electrolyte balance. Dr. Perry also states that 1,000 gallons of water would contain approximately 14 pounds of saline-type salts and that a day's supply would contain about 3 tons of the same salts.

Last August, C. M. Woodland, then Redfield mayor, presented a proposal to the council for a water system costing approximately \$600,000 for the purpose of processing brackish water. The council turned down the proposal because of the excessive cost for a city of our size.

On January 18, just 18 days after I had become acting mayor, I wrote to Senator George McGovern for help in establishing a saline water plant as a demonstration plant here. Senator McGovern informed me that there was no funds available for this purpose at the present time. A copy of Senator McGovern's letter is attached.

I would also like to comment on the stability of agriculture in our surrounding area. I am in a business of manufacturing feed and a chick hatchery. We employ 20-some people and all but one of these were born and raised on a farm. I am sure that this story is also true for our entire farm area, only that many have not settled in Redfield, but have gone to the cities for a better living.

We have manufactured feed for 10 years and for 3 of those 10 years we have had to purchase our corn supply from approximately 100 miles away. We must purchase our dehydrated alfalfa from out of State. Water for irrigation would give us a sure supply of alfalfa and likely a dehydration plant nearby.

We must stabilize our agriculture and maintain our population through irrigation of our farmlands.