

to hear the testimony, to hear the words of our people, will cause you to be able to go back to your committee as a whole and relate the great importance that this project has to our entire State.

I would say that the Federal Government has spent millions and, yes, billions, in helping to develop the economies in the respective areas of our State of South Dakota. I should say the United States of America. To me, I feel that, because of this history and the help that has been given by the Federal Government, every effort and consideration should be made at this particular time to implement the program which, as I said before, will be of the greatest economic impact that could ever be given to our State.

Gentlemen, the land that was taken for the storage of the waters in these reservoirs was paid for, insofar as the individual owners were concerned, but the fact still remains that these storage areas now comprise approximately one-half million acres of land which had been taken out of production. We have a total storage potentiality of water in South Dakota alone of 34 million acre-feet, and annually there is roughly from 17 to 30 million feet of water, of precious water, our greatest resource, that is flowing out of the State of South Dakota into other States and into the Gulf of Mexico.

We are asking that we be able to stake a claim to a portion of this resource, which God, with the assistance of man, has given to us, and we would, therefore, certainly urge that this subcommittee give to us the fullest consideration in making a favorable report back to your full committee with respect to the enactment of Senate bill 6.

I will look forward to the opportunity of testifying at further length before your full Senate hearing at such time as they may be called in Washington.

Thank you so much, gentlemen.

Senator McGovern. Thanks ever so much, Governor, for that excellent statement.

I know your presence here, along with the presence of some of our other fellow citizens, is going to carry great weight with the members of the committee.

I might say that we have enjoyed the closest kind of cooperation among the members of our congressional delegation and our Governor's office and his staff from the very beginning in connection with this legislation. I am sure that is going to continue in the future.

I have a telegram that arrived a few minutes ago from Senator Mundt, which I would like to read into the committee record.

Deeply regret duties in Washington in connection with Senate Appropriations Committee make impossible my attendance at Oahe hearings in Redfield. I join with Senator McGovern in welcoming to South Dakota those committee members in attendance and hope the hearings will provide another forward step in our united campaign to authorize and fund the Oahe irrigation project. Adequate water for farming where we need it and when we need it will contribute greatly to family farm income and to the stabilization of South Dakota's economy in general. Please be assured of my continued support of this important irrigation project.

We also have a brief communication from the adjutant of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, Robert D. Gates, that I would like to have made a part of the record.

In behalf of Commander Roy M. Robertson and the 512 members of Paul A. Schleher Post 2755, Veterans of Foreign Wars of Redfield, I wish to take this