

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you ever so much, Mayor Hurlbert.

I also understand Mr. Gary Sharp of Brown County has a time problem. We would be glad to hear from Mr. Sharp at this time.

I think Mr. Sharp is enrolled in South Dakota State University, is that correct?

STATEMENT BY GARY R. SHARP, BATH, S. DAK.

Mr. SHARP. Yes.

Honorable Senators, Governor Boe, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen, I am Gary Sharp of Bath, S. Dak. I graduated from Aberdeen Central High School a year ago and I am now completing my first year of college at South Dakota State University as an agriculture major.

My parents live on a farm which is located 5 miles east of Aberdeen in the heart of the newly formed West Brown Irrigation District. So, naturally I have been exposed to the aspects of the many benefits of irrigation.

Two years ago, I did some research on water development and the potential of irrigation for our area for a speech class in my high school. Upon the completion of my speech, my fellow classmates and my instructors brought forth a number of questions concerning "opportunities" derived through this vast project. I attempted to point out a few of the many job opportunities as well as recreational opportunities obtained primarily through water.

Also, as a 10-year 4-H member, I have worked closely with conservation and have done various research projects concerning irrigation. Through my studies and presentations, the same caliber of questions have risen as did in my high school speech class; what opportunities will be available to my generation?

As I have tried to point out, the interest and thought is definitely present in the minds of the people my age. I believe that the majority of the people would like to stay in our area to make their homes and raise their families, if there would be more and new opportunities available to them. I also believe that water will bring these "if's" to a reality.

Our area is one of the finest areas in the world and why not keep it that way and also better it by keeping our youth here, where they are educated?

I, too, urge your strong support for the authorization of the Oahe project. Our future depends upon it.

Thank you.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you very much.

Senator Burdick made a very good point last night, I thought. He said one of the inspiring aspects of support for water resource development is that many of our older citizens are doing this not because of any personal benefit that will ever come to them, since water resource development is a long-term proposition, but they are interested in it because of their concern for oncoming generations.

The witness we have just heard from now is one man that looks like he is young enough so he is going to have a good many years to benefit from the irrigation and water development in our State.

The next witness is a man who has played a very important part in the public education on irrigation potential in our State. He is a