

collectively committed as a free and vigorous and informed people to take a hand in shaping that destiny. I firmly believe the people are ready and the time is now. We are asking only that which is necessary to proceed from here. I trust we have presented a clear case to you gentlemen. We will require your assistance if we will keep our date with destiny.

Senator McGovern. Mr. Chester Gullikson is the next one on my list from Brown County. Mr. Gullikson, may we hear from you?

STATEMENT OF CHESTER GULLIKSON, FARMER FROM BROWN COUNTY, S. DAK.

Mr. GULLIKSON. Honorable Senator George McGovern, Senator Burdick, and Senator Moss.

My name is Chester Gullikson from Brown County. My business is the production of polled Hereford cattle for seed stock; the feeding of cattle for market and the production of feed for my cattle operation.

Today is a landmark day. May this be the beginning of the "era of rain and moisture insurance" for this area of northern South Dakota.

After being on at least four irrigation tours in Nebraska, the great advantages of bringing water to the land became readily apparent to me. There seemed no limitation to the potential production of the land where irrigation was being practiced.

The James River runs through my farm. Although it is a rather uncertain supply of water, I decided to try to irrigate from it. In 1965, I leveled 50 acres of land. In 1966, this 50 acres was irrigated with gated pipe along with 15 acres that needed no leveling. Needless to say, my irrigation project is being followed with great interest by both friend and foe of irrigation, and I might add—possibly I am under observation by some, also.

While I was a student at South Dakota State University, the soils professor stated that the James River Valley had one of the three finest soils in the world. With adequate water, it will contribute greatly to the food stocks of the Nation.

The results of the 1966 corn production under irrigation was highly productive and encouraging—and proved beyond a doubt that irrigation, even in a wet year, will increase yields markedly. Even after a hail loss of 30- to 60-percent damage, the irrigated corn yielded 105 to 128 bushels per acre of 13 percent moisture, shelled corn. If this corn would have been harvested for silage, it would have yielded from 18 to 22 tons per acre; whereas, an 8- to 10-ton yield on dry land is considered an excellent yield. In a dry year from zero to 3 or 4 tons an acre can be expected, 40 to 50 bushels of corn per acre on dry land is considered good while the county average is 34 bushels per acre. Dryland yields of 1.5 to 3 tons of alfalfa could be increased to 5 to 7 tons per acre depending on the growing season.

Tame grass and sudan pastures could be irrigated to provide sure and dependable pastures for cattle and sheep. The terrible dread of lingering and devastating drought could be nearly a thing of the past. It is extremely important to me to know that I can produce enough feed each year without too much worry. It will not be necessary with irrigation, to wait until the end of the summer to know how many