

STATEMENT OF JIM SPERRY, FARMER IN THE WEST BROWN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Mr. SPERRY. Chairman McGovern and fellow members of the Senate Water and Power Resources Subcommittee, I am Jim Sperry. I farm in the West Brown Irrigation District. I am very optimistic about our future prospects as an irrigated area. I feel that the increased productivity, as well as the increased assurance of harvesting a crop will lead to improved income levels for those of us on the farm as well as our city cousins. I realize that bringing water here and developing our land to receive it will require much work and planning in addition to large financial investment. As the father of two boys and one girl now attending grade school, I am willing to help undertake the development of this project which will quite possibly be delivering water here by the time my children are ready to establish homes and begin careers of their own. I hope that the stimulating effect of irrigation on South Dakota economy will make it possible for my children, as well as my neighbors' children, to find opportunity here in South Dakota rather than migrating to more densely populated areas of our country.

For these reasons I urge the authorization of the Oahe unit irrigation in 1967.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you ever so much, Mr. Sperry.

Is Mr. Smith or Mr. Locken here at this time?

STATEMENT OF HAROLD SMITH, FARMER, ABERDEEN, S. DAK.

Mr. SMITH. Members of the U.S. Senate Water and Power Resources Subcommittee, I am Harold Smith of Route 1, Aberdeen, S. Dak. Many of my relatives farm in a pump irrigated area in the Platte Valley of Nebraska. In observing their operations through the years, I can see how irrigation has effectively stabilized their farm income and the overall economy of the area. It has provided them with more consistent and higher crop yields which in turn has resulted in the establishment of numerous crop processing plants and other related agricultural industries.

In the not too distant future we are going to need increased production such as this in many new areas in order that we may adequately feed the people in our country. We have the soil so if we have the water we can do our share.

I urge authorization of the Oahe project at the earliest possible date.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you on this important project in relation to our area.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you very much for your statement.

STATEMENT BY NORBERT MILES, PUBLISHER OF THE TIMES RECORD, DOLAND, S. DAK.

Mr. MILES. Mr. McGovern, I would like to bring up one point that could have been overlooked in Mr. Gullikson's testimony. The question was asked by the honorable Senator as how often this corn crop last year was irrigated. Having spent 10 years in the seed corn company and seeing many operations, I would like to add that he was