

Huron is well aware of the value of irrigation. We already have nearly 15,000 acres of this type of farming, supplied by underground aquifers and in some instances by surface water from the James River which will carry the return flows of the Oahe Unit.

This good sample may be increased, but it is not enough to support new agricultural crops which will stabilize the economy of the future. Our people have had one experience with a new crop—and not enough total acreage to support a processor.

Irrigation farmers in Beadle and Spink Counties made substantial investments in equipment to enable them to grow sugar beets a few years ago. But the total acreage available was not sufficient to support a sugar beet refinery and the U & I Sugar Company, which had been buying their production for processing in the Western part of the state was forced to close its South Dakota plant.

This is one company, and only one, which will be looking to this area for a processing plant when sufficient acreage has water available to support a plant.

The city of Huron so depends upon the James Diversion Dam, originally planned as part of the Oahe Project, for its water supply. This dam was constructed by the Department of Interior, now is being paid for by the city of Huron by way of water purchases. But the water supply created by this dam was only calculated to be sufficient for the city until 1970. By that time it was assumed the Oahe Project, of which this small dam will be an integral part, would be under construction and that Huron in future years would be able to purchase water in increasingly larger quantities as it was needed.

The Huron Rotary Club respectfully requests your favorable consideration of Senate Bill Six, which contains essential legislation to authorize construction of this project.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM VAN TASSEL, *President.*

THE SERTOMA CLUB OF HURON,
May 4, 1967.

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE,
Subcommittee on Power and Water Resources, of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: The Huron Chapter of Sertoma International boasts a membership of just under 100 business and professional men all dedicated to service to the community.

In this area, our members have actively supported the planning and development of the Oahe Irrigation unit since its original authorization in 1944.

One of our members, as a Legislator, helped to write the legislation which made the Oahe Conservancy District possible. Others of our group have been active in the educational programs which resulted in a 92.5 per cent affirmative vote for the Sub-District and the project in the city of Huron in 1960.

We are well aware of the problems which face agriculture and the cities that serve agriculture, now and in the years ahead. The one greatest single effort that this community and this state has counted upon to help solve these problems is the development of the Oahe Irrigation unit.

The great economic benefits from this unit will not only stabilize our agriculture, but will supply the impetus for new industry in processing fields and in others not directly allied with agriculture production.

The Sertoma Club has worked hard over the years to make this community a better place to work and live. But the finest living conditions are of no particular value unless employment and job opportunities can be provided as well.

Much has been written in recent years of the problems created by migration from rural areas to the already overcrowded cities. Here, a relatively minor investment could reverse this trend and contribute to a more efficient overall farm production plant for the eventual benefit of the consumer as well.

We know that you are fully aware of the high benefits-to-cost ratio of this project. Benefits which will accrue to the people of this community, this state, this nation, and to the extent that it will increase food production to the peoples of the entire world.

Sertoma International is an organization dedicated to the service of all mankind. We can think of no project which would more nearly accomplish this purpose.