

When fully developed, this great project will supply water for products not now produce here and will improve production of crops which are now grown. Both will provide opportunity for new industrial operations and for expanded businesses in industries which supply the farmer.

One of South Dakota's greatest problems is the outward migration of our young people. Insufficient job opportunities force many of our best young people to leave this area and the state. Construction of the Oahe Unit and the attendant economic benefits will do much to alleviate this problem for much of northern and central South Dakota and to some extent the entire state.

The recreational benefits that will accrue from the Oahe Unit are not to be ignored. Not only will the added recreation areas provide a healthier environment in which our young people may grow and mature, but they will provide new opportunities for small businesses which cater to the needs of sportsmen to prosper.

The entire membership of the Huron Optimist Club has an active interest in the development of the Oahe Irrigation Unit. We urge you, in the interest of the young people of Huron, the surrounding area, and the entire state and nation, to give favorable consideration to the immediate authorization of this project.

Sincerely,

DONALD G. BRUGMAN, *President.*

Senator McGovern. Thanks to you, Mayor Schmidt, and we see all of those statements are in the record.

I think we will now call the president of the Spink County Irrigation District, Mr. Kenneth Goodwin, if he is here, to make his statement at this time.

STATEMENT OF KENNETH GOODWIN, CHAIRMAN, SPINK COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. GOODWIN. Honorable members of the Senate subcommittee, my name is Kenneth Goodwin, a farmer in Spink County and chairman of the Spink County Irrigation District board of directors. I wish to make the following statements on behalf of the irrigation district board and in support of the Oahe irrigation development.

Irrigation development in this area has traveled a long and complicated route since the original dream set forth in the Pick-Sloan plan for development of the Missouri River Basin.

Many people and agencies of both Federal, State, and local governments have been involved. We are now approaching a start on the realization of one part of that original dream—irrigation.

Of significant importance has been the support of a well-informed people, to take each step and, when necessary, vote favorably by large majorities.

I refer to:

1. Formation of the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict at the general election in 1960 by an 87 percent favorable vote; this represents about 22 percent of both the land and people of this State.
2. Formation of the Spink County Irrigation District by special election in January 1965, by a favorable vote of about 82 percent.
3. Granting of contract authority to the board of directors of the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict at the general election in November 1966 by a 79.6 percent favorable vote.

We are now awaiting approval by Congress and authorization to start construction of the first stage of the Oahe irrigation project. These hearings are a part of your responsibility to determine if this project is desired by the people directly involved and if it is in the best interests of the people of this area, State, and Nation. We believe it is.