

The factual details in support of this irrigation development are in the many reports and are basically covered in the supplemental report on Oahe unit initial stage 190,000 acres prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation.

The most critical steps in irrigation development are now at hand and require:

1. Congressional approval and authorization for construction.
2. Completion of master contracts and participating contracts between the irrigation district and the United States.
3. And, last but not least, another vote on this contract by the people within the irrigation districts directly involved.

We, on the Spink County Irrigation Board, believe the people will again give their support for irrigation, and vote favorably on these repayment contracts if they are fair and reasonable.

Irrigation development will be good for the agriculture of this area. It will not solve the basic problem facing agriculture everywhere, which is rising costs of production and steady or declining incomes received for food and fiber produced.

Agriculture's efficiency of production is surpassed by no industry and the increases have succeeded in freeing the majority of this Nation from the task of food production, thereby resulting in a standard of living equaled nowhere in the world. Ironically, the rewards have gone largely to other segments of the Nation. If this situation continues, we are on a collision course in which farming, as we now know it, will no longer exist, and food will become scarce, with extremely high costs.

People living on the land have two alternatives. One is to produce food and fiber as economically as possible, and then hope that it will sell for enough to continue production. Irrigation is one of the great achievements which, for agriculture, will stabilize and increase production in this area. The other alternative is for the people to leave the land and seek employment in more prosperous areas of endeavor.

We sincerely hope that agriculture may share more favorably in the future of this Nation.

On behalf of the Spink County Irrigation District I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this project and its early approval by the Congress of the United States.

I have statements of support from the following organizations which I wish to present for your information and record.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support.

These other statements are from a number of farmers in this area: Robert Ewart, Joe Dvorak, Sr., Otis Hawkins, Clifford Larson, Lloyd Dye, who is superintendent of the irrigation development farm mentioned by Duane Acker; Wendell Miller, who is a farmer; Stewart Benning, a farmer; Lyle Crook, a farmer; the Spink County Extension Board; Spink County Farmers Organization; and from the group of churches represented in Redfield, S. Dak.

Senator McGovern. Thank you ever so much for your statement, Mr. Goodwin, and we will see that all of those accompanying statements are made a part of the record.

(The statements referred to follow:)

*Honorable Members of the Senate Subcommittee:*

My name is Robert Ewart. My land isn't in the proposed irrigation district. I do feed a lot of cattle and hogs and I can't raise enough feed for roughage and grain both. So, at the present time, I buy all the grain I feed and raise all that