

I believe irrigation is to be a must in the future of our world, if we are going to be able to grow enough food. I believe that this project will be of great benefit to South Dakota. I am sure that with this project there will come industry, such as canneries, sugar refineries, and food processing plants.

I look at irrigation as insurance, when the rains don't come I still have a crop from my irrigated land. I believe what this world needs is insurance against hunger, and I see this as a small policy.

Therefore, I hope the Congress sees fit to go ahead with the Oahe Irrigation Project.

Thank you.

*Honorable Members of the Senate Subcommittee:*

The Spink County Extension Board presents the following information for consideration by the Senate Subcommittee.

The Spink County Water Resource Board and the Spink County Irrigation Board have requested the assistance of the Spink County Extension Office on educational information pertaining to the Oahe Irrigation Project.

The following information is submitted to show the thinking of the people from Spink County:

A series of five educational meetings were held to explain the proposed Oahe Development. The meetings were attended by both women and men from rural and city areas.

A written survey including the three following questions, was taken at these meetings:

1. Should Spink County have irrigation? Yes, 88%; no, 17%.
2. Do you own land in the irrigated area? Yes, 69%; no, 31%.
3. Do you own land in Spink County? Yes, 80%; no 20%.

The vote for irrigation, after this survey was taken, passed 82.7% yes; showing that the results of the survey were a representation of the people voting.

A survey on the loss of young people in the Redfield trade area was conducted through the Redfield School System. The years, 1945-1956, which includes eleven high school graduation classes, with 594 graduates.

The year 1956 was used as a cut-off date to allow students to attend college and/or serve in the armed services, and have time to return to this area and establish their homes. Results show 68.52% of the 594 graduates have not returned to this area.

The loss of young people to this area emphasizes the lack of jobs in the area. Development of the Oahe Unit will help to provide job opportunities.

During the past fifteen years there has been a loss of 514 farms in Spink County. The loss of these farm units has increased the tax burden on the people remaining in the community. It has also reduced the need for goods and services to supply those farm units.

Regarding the vote on the Oahe Unit Contract Authority:

The total vote for rural and city shows the following results:

Rural: 1278, yes; 464, no; or 73.36% in favor.

City: 1719, yes; 352, no; or 83% in favor.

Combined total: 79.6%, yes.

This vote reflects the thinking of the voters in Spink County concerning the proposed Oahe Irrigation Unit.

Regarding the land owners who have asked to have their land included in the Irrigation District, or to have their land reinstated in the Irrigation District, after they petitioned it out during the hearings:

The Irrigation Boards of Brown and Spink Counties made up a form on which a land owner may signify his intentions to have his land included in the Irrigation District. To date, twelve farms with a total of 3000 acres of land have requested to have their land included in the Irrigation District. These twelve requests are the results of two press releases by the Irrigation Board. Plans are to hold a series of meetings on bringing land into the Irrigation District in 1967 and 1968, with a vote to be held in 1968.

The Spink County Extension Board thanks the subcommittee for the opportunity to present this testimony.

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