

shallow wells dried up and there was little or no surface water to depend on. Now the Pierre Canal of the proposed Oahe irrigation unit will cross our county and give us access to Missouri Basin water for which there is a need and request for today, that will become a requirement and human necessity of the 1970's.

Our committee has observed the need from landowner petitions desiring to irrigate land along the canal for which soil surveys indicate there is better than 7,000 acres within 2 miles on each side of the proposed Pierre Canal, suitable for intensive irrigation. I live approximately 5 miles from the proposed canal in an 8,000-acre area where landowners are proceeding toward the goal of obtaining Missouri Basin water for irrigation and livestock usage.

This total of 15,000 acres would represent a need for only 27,000 acre-feet of water but our committee believes there is a need for at least 6 inches of water per year on another 300,000 acres of grass, tame pasture, and forage production land that would utilize another 150,000 acre-feet of water.

Our committee notes the approximate 3,000 acres of water area such as stock and recreational dams, marsh, and lowland areas that could utilize an average of 5 feet of water per year or 15,000 acre-feet, plus an equal amount for recharging underground water sources.

When the committee allows 20,000 acre-feet per year for municipal and probably industrial uses, we arrive at an estimated total requirement of 227,000 acre-feet per year.

With this in mind, the Hughes County Water Resources Committee requests the Pierre Canal and Blunt Reservoir be so designed, constructed, and operated to allow full season irrigation from the canal and allow a minimum fluctuation in the Blunt Reservoir. We feel this can be accomplished by pumping water into the canal every month from April through October, or using a gated canal design when water is not being pumped. We believe through this type of canal operation that Hughes County will be able to recover from the Missouri Basin some of the tax base and economic losses that were lost through creation of Lake Sharp and Oahe Reservoirs. We wholeheartedly support the Oahe irrigation unit for South Dakota and hope that appearance today can help speed the project toward realization.

I also have a resolution to present to the committee from the Hughes County Commissioners in favor of the project, and also a resolution from the city of Blunt, signed by the mayor of Blunt in favor of the project.

(The resolutions referred to follow:)

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the future economic development of the State depends in part upon the wise development of South Dakota's water resources, and

Whereas, the Oahe Unit is a plan to utilize the waters of the Missouri River for irrigation, municipal and industrial water supplies, recreation and the conservation of fish and wildlife, and

Whereas, the development of this Unit will provide a stabilizing effect on the agricultural economy and will stimulate job and business opportunities, now

Therefore be it resolved, by the Hughes County Commissioners assembled at their monthly meeting at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of May, 1967, urge the Congress of the United States to promptly approve legislation authorizing the Oahe Unit.