

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 Blunt City Council assembled at their monthly meeting at Blunt, S. Dak., this 1st day of May, 1967, urge the Congress of the United States to promptly approve legislation authorizing the Oahe Unit.

MAYOR CLIFFORD OGAN.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you for your statement, and also for those accompanying resolutions.

I would now like to call Mr. LeRoy Wiitala, president of the Brown County Farmers Union, if he is here.

STATEMENT OF LeROY WIITALA, PRESIDENT, BROWN COUNTY FARMERS UNION, FREDERICK, S. DAK.

Mr. WIITALA. Senator McGovern, Senator Burdick, and Senator Moss, I am LeRoy Wiitala, a Brown County farmer and president of the Brown County Farmers Union. I am here today representing the 800 members of our county Farmers Union organization.

We believe that water is the key to a golden future for all of Brown County. The realization of this dream, with the completion of the Oahe irrigation unit, will greatly stabilize farm income probability for farmers in Brown County and throughout the Oahe irrigation area.

Not all of our members will share directly in the benefits of Oahe, but indirect benefits will accrue to all farmers outside the irrigable area. In a limited rainfall area such as ours along with our total dependence on adequate feed supplies to carry our livestock operations, the certainty of water in the area insures plentiful amounts of forage and feed being available to all of Brown County.

Still fresh in the minds of older farmers are the memories of the "Dirty Thirties," with its devastating drought, bringing untold suffering to man and beast. And history may repeat itself, as evidenced by the patterns of weather over the central and southern Great Plains area the past few years. Furthermore, the continuing shortage of water, via lowered water tables, in the Southwestern United States will bring a gradual reduction of irrigable acres in the next few years.

If this project fails to materialize and in the end we lose prior rights to this great and plentiful resource that flows through our State—then we will have failed future generations of South Dakota farmers.

The Brown County Farmers Union membership and its board of directors have on many occasions discussed this issue. We ask that authorization for the initial stages of the Oahe irrigation unit be approved by the Congress this year.

And I would like to add one more remark to this. We, of Farmers Union have always championed the food-for-peace program sponsored by Senator McGovern, and we firmly believe in the adage, "We are our brother's keeper," and with this irrigation project fulfilled, we will have food production for the people worldwide, for people to keep them alive.