

AFTERNOON SESSION

Senator McGovern. Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to start just a little bit ahead of our 1 o'clock time because we have two or three witnesses who are anxious to get away, who have asked to testify now. So, the committee can come to order. We will call to the stand Mr. Dennis Evans of Ashton, S. Dak.

**STATEMENT OF DENNIS EVANS, SPINK COUNTY FARMER,
ASHTON, S. DAK.**

Mr. EVANS. Honorable members of the Senate subcommittee, my name is Dennis Evans. I have been farming in the Ashton, S. Dak., area since 1951. In all those 16 years, there have only been a few years that the need for water was not critical during the cropping season.

With the use of the new high yield seed varieties and new fertilizer techniques, I believe that the lack of water is the only factor that keeps this land from being one of the higher producing areas in our country.

I own 800 acres, but I am presently farming 2,400 acres—all the land is in the irrigation district. I realize that a man will not farm this many acres under irrigation, but I believe that land classified as irrigable, should be in the district.

I believe that irrigation will greatly expand the livestock industry, as well as give a larger variety of crops that can be raised on farms.

I also think that new industries will be built in towns to process the increased production from the farms. Other industries would be built with the available water.

I think that irrigation would increase and stabilize the economy of this area. I would like to see irrigation come to South Dakota for my generation and all the future generations.

Senator McGovern. Thank you, ever so much, for your statement, Mr. Evans.

Is Mrs. Frank Swope in the room? Mrs. Swope, we will be glad to hear from you now.

STATEMENT OF MRS. FRANK SWOPE, ORIENT, S. DAK.

Mrs. SWOPE. Senator McGovern and Senator Burdick, I am Mrs. Frank Swope of Orient, S. Dak. Having come from an area in the south where they usually have plenty of moisture, it didn't take me long to understand that the lifeblood of agriculture in this area is water.

I am cochairman of Extension Homemakers Council of Faulk County. One of the anxieties of farmers in the springtime is whether or not it is going to be a season of sufficient moisture for the production of crops, hay, and pastures. A common statement made by farmers in the spring is that they would plan their operations on a higher economic level if they were sure of a year of sufficient moisture to warrant it. So irrigation here would assure of a stability that would definitely accrue to a much higher economic position of our farmers and stockmen, and consequently to growth and betterment of our towns.

It was my privilege and pleasure to represent Faulk County women at an Oahe informational meeting and then to take the information back to the women of the various clubs over the county. In all of the club meetings which I attended over the county to talk about and