

Dakota has long been a leading agricultural State, and has achieved this standing through the professionals who operate our farms and ranches.

This subject today also has national significance. We believe that it is not only the concern of the people of South Dakota, but to all American citizens. South Dakota is on the threshold of greatness. The degree of success in a large measure, which we are about to witness, will be directly contingent upon the support given to our request, authorizing and funding of the Oahe Irrigation District, by the Congress of the United States. It has been said that the Midwest—and South Dakota being a part of this region—is the breadbasket of the world. If we are to be charged with the responsibility of contributing to the supply necessary to meet the demands of a hungry world, then we must receive congressional support for the Oahe project. Now is the hour for all people to support this measure in its entirety. Based upon the results of other areas which have gone to a program of irrigation, a great economic boom is in store for this area and our great State. South Dakota's future is indeed incalculable, rich, and rewarding, but only if we are to capitalize on our natural resources. It is the aim of the GSDA to do what is necessary and possible to insure the continued economic well-being of our citizens. In order to insure that economic well-being of South Dakota's No. 1 industry, and achieve the goal of maximum return for the investment on the part of the agriculture specialist, it is imperative that maximum production and total utilization be the result of the efforts. Through irrigation, this goal, in part, can be achieved.

If we observe similar projects of other areas, one quickly discovers many significant facts: (1) A stabilization of production and income through crop diversification, greater yields of feed grains, and more livestock production and feeding; (2) a reversal of the trend of people leaving the farms—oftentimes an increase in population and the number of farms in a given area. With such increases in yields, there is increased employment opportunities. The result of this increased investment, increased productivity is an increase in net farm income.

We must also take into consideration the corollary to this development, the additional needs for goods and services to fill the requirements of the agriculturalist will require need for business houses, service centers, and schools to meet the needs of this increase in population.

In addition to improving the economic situation of the agriculturalist, one must be cognizant of the complementary benefits of the project. Among the benefits of the project: (1) Effect on the economic situation of the fringe areas; (2) the increased recreational aspects of the project; and (3) improvement of the municipal, industrial, and domestic water supplies.

This project must be viewed with a great deal of optimism. No longer is farming a haphazard guessing game, it has developed into a highly technical and scientific profession.

South Dakota farmers have shown great resourcefulness in developing the resources through their individual talents to produce vast amounts of food and fiber. No longer can we be entirely dependent