

Under the original proposed plan of operation for the Oahe irrigation project, they would pump water every month during the irrigation season; this would give the irrigators in Hughes County the opportunity to irrigate full-season crops. The Blunt Reservoir would be operated at a fairly constant level which would make it useful for recreation facilities. The Hughes County Crop Improvement Association is in support of the original Oahe irrigation project. However, we strongly urge that the original plan of operation be followed, so there will be water in the Pierre Canal for irrigation through the month of August, rather than generating electricity with the No. 7 generating unit at the Oahe Dam.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to appear before your committee in support of the Oahe irrigation project. Thank you.

Senator MCGOVERN. Mr. Beastrom, as I understand it, the problem that you are referring to here is the proposal by the Bureau of Reclamation that they utilize the seventh unit at the Oahe Dam roughly during the month of August to generate power rather than divert water into the canal.

Mr. BEASTROM. That is right. We understand that No. 7 generating unit would be—the electricity would be generated and sold through the month of August rather than be used for pumping water.

Senator MCGOVERN. I think one of the things we have to keep in mind is that about 85 percent of the cost of the entire project is going to be paid out of power revenue. So, I am sure you would be the first one to recognize there is another side to that issue that we have to keep in balance. But, I think your point is well taken as one we ought to look at thoughtfully. It is a perfect example of the competing claims on the water.

I am sure we are going to have more problems of that kind as we move along and we will try to resolve the various interests the best we can.

Thank you for your statement.

The next witness is Mr. Norman Nystrom of Blunt, S. Dak. Is he in the room? He is with the Hughes County Soil & Water Conservation District.

**STATEMENT OF NORMAN NYSTROM, SUPERVISOR, HUGHES
COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Mr. NYSTROM. I am Norman Nystrom from Pierre, S. Dak. I have been for 2 years irrigating from Oahe, on land I own along the lake. I believe I know from this experience what irrigation can mean to central South Dakota.

I also own irrigable land along the proposed canal from Oahe to the Blunt Reservoir and would like to be able to buy full-season irrigation water from the canal for this land.

Some question has come up to the fact that there may not be water in this canal during the month of August. From my own experience I know this is the peak period for irrigated crops in central South Dakota, and that is why I say we need full-season irrigation from this canal.

As a director of the South Dakota Irrigation & Hughes County SCS Association, I represent a majority of this organization, and we want