

Rich in the opportunity to visit and communicate with nature as countless generations of man has done in ages past.

We, the sportsmen, have been assured by agencies concerned—namely, the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks—that ample provision will be made for wildlife and wildlife habitat in the development of the Oahe unit. This will be done through construction of new wildlife areas to replace those lost, and improvement of other areas when such is compatible with the overall objective of the unit.

With these assurances in mind, we the Sportsmen's Club of Brown County, Inc., Aberdeen, S. Dak., endorse and urge your support for the authorization of the Oahe unit for construction of the irrigation unit in the State of South Dakota.

Senator BURDICK. You are aware that section 2 of the bill takes care of recreation, fish, and wildlife.

Mr. GRIESS. That is right.

Senator BURDICK. You are satisfied with that section of the bill?

Mr. GRIESS. We are.

Senator BURDICK. And are you in close contact with the Interior Department and Fish and Wildlife Department?

Mr. GRIESS. Yes, we are.

Senator MCGOVERN. Mr. Arthur Jones; is he here? He is also a member of the South Dakota State Senate.

#### STATEMENT OF ARTHUR JONES, PRESIDENT, EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

Mr. JONES. Senator McGovern and Senator Burdick, irrigation and water development promised by the Oahe project is the difference between boom or bust in South Dakota. It's that simple. And that's why I'm here to voice the hope of 50,000 rural families, who make up the organization which I represent, that the Oahe unit will be authorized, funded, and speedily built.

My name is Art Jones. I am a State senator from Britton, S. Dak., but I am here today in my capacity as president of East River Electric Power Cooperatives of Madison, S. Dak., the wholesale power supplier to people in the area covered by the first stage of Oahe plus most of the rest of eastern South Dakota. Nearly 200,000 people are dependent on electricity from the 23 distribution systems which make up East River. We have an interest in selling a small bit of electric power that must be used for pumping the water involved in the Oahe project, but our interest really is much broader than that.

Our interest really is people. More than selling pumping power, more than providing electric service to the 500 additional farms which Oahe will make possible, we are interested in 500 families and more. We are interested in having an opportunity for those 500 families to make their own choice—whether they want to stay on the land or join the mass exodus to the cities. As it is today, they have no choice—they will join the 1,200 farmers a year who close up shop in South Dakota.

You have seen copies of the Bureau of Reclamation's report on the Oahe unit. This report covers in detail a few facts which I should