

sketch briefly today. In addition to 500 new farms with 1,700 more people on the farm, it will create jobs in the cities and towns to serve these farmers. The town and city population is expected to increase 12,300—the multiplier effect—which grew from the “seed” planted with the 500 new farms. Translate this into the second stage of Oahe and we get new opportunities of staggering proportions.

Our young people are leaving South Dakota at an unprecedented rate. Opportunities for 14,000 more people in South Dakota will again give our young people a choice—whether to stay or go. Today, for many, there is but one choice. There just is not enough opportunity at home.

The Oahe unit can put another \$30 million into South Dakota's annual gross farm income. It can mean another \$54 million in farm investment and over \$14 million in increased farm expense. This money has to be spent somewhere—and much of it will be spent right here on the main streets of Redfield and other similar communities. The estimate of the amount of this trade is over \$71 million annually. This means over \$31 million in wages, profits, and interest resulting from the development of the Oahe unit. Tax revenues to local, State, and Federal governments likewise will increase, probably by more than \$6 million.

The consumer-owned electric industry in the Missouri Basin is vitally concerned with the Oahe project. Revenue from the sale of electric power will repay more than 83 percent of the cost of the project. We who purchase this electric power for use on our farms are more than happy to make this project possible.

Benefits from the Oahe project will be legion. There will be municipal water supply for the people of 17 communities. Recreation, fish, and wildlife will be improved for the people of this area. But perhaps greatest of all will be the benefit of ending, for many, the “boom or bust” cycle caused by wide variations in the patterns of rain and drought. May I cite a few figures developed by South Dakota State University at its irrigation development farm. From 1954 through 1959 in Spink and Beadle Counties, the average corn yield was 19 bushels per acre. This encompasses a high of 27 bushels per acre and a low of only 8 bushels per acre in the extremely dry year of 1959. During this same period of 6 years, corn on the Spink County Irrigation Development Farm yielded 75 bushels to the acre—nearly 4 times greater than the dryland average.

My organization—East River Electric—has been a long and consistent supporter of the development of this project. Our membership unanimously approved a resolution in 1961 which called for development of the Oahe project. We have done so at every annual meeting since that time. I am submitting for the record a copy of our most recent resolution, passed at our 1966 annual meeting. Also attached are copies of the resolutions adopted by 12 of our member cooperatives which also support the Oahe project.

The Senators who are here today, I would like to recognize for the benefit of the audience, all are from Western States. All of you know fully the value of irrigation in improving the economy of the West. You know the value of stabilization of family-farm agriculture that irrigation can provide. In short, you know the value of the Oahe