

sooner it becomes a reality the sooner today's farmer can perform on an even basis with the rest of our economy.

I wish to urge the lawmakers and all others concerned to fully back this project so the farmer of today may become more stable and secure.

Senator McGovern. Thank you, Robert. That was a very fine statement and contains much worth thinking about.

Mr. Delbert Frericks of Spink County. Mr. Frericks.

**STATEMENT OF DELBERT FRERICKS, SPINK COUNTY,
FRANKFORT, S. DAK.**

Mr. FRERICKS. Honorable members of the Senate subcommittee, I, Delbert Frericks, a young farmer from area No. 5 of the Spink County Irrigation District, appear before you today to urge your full support in speeding the approval and development of the Oahe irrigation project.

Last year, after having completed my college education in animal science and having served my 6 months tour of active duty under the National Guard program, I chose to return to the farm.

I have now been operating with my father for nearly a year. Ours is primarily a livestock operation—making use of all our home-grown feed grains plus a large amount of grains purchased from other farmers in our community. Any period of drought certainly would cut deeply into our operations.

Drought would mean that we must either decrease our livestock numbers or haul feed into the farm from some distance. Both alternatives are something we don't want to have to face when we have adequate supplies of very fertile farm ground and our country and world are crying louder and louder for our nutritious products. This is especially true when we know that only 100 miles away we have stored vast supplies of water which could turn drought and despair to harvests and hope.

It is true that I have not experienced extreme drought in my lifetime. But my father has—and he lives in fear of its consequences. Like any father, he wants his sons to lead lives which don't have the rough spots he has experienced.

I am certain that is why he often feels that I should accept one of the many agri-industry job offers that come my way. Perhaps I should, but I feel that the Oahe project holds just as great a promise for those of us who hope to benefit from it. It's also much the old adage of being able to take the boy from the farm, but not being able to take the farm from the boy.

It is my strongest feeling that we can't continue to take the boys from the farms in our area of the district any longer. We need a greater incentive for staying with the land—and farm prices currently aren't providing that incentive. For myself and the other young men of the area, irrigation can and should provide that incentive.

Thus, I strongly urge your support and passage of Senate bill No. 6.

Thank you.