

Senator McGovern. Thank you for your statement, Mr. Frericks. Mr. Merle Lambert of Spink County, is the next witness.

**STATEMENT OF MERLE LAMBERT, SPINK COUNTY,
FRANKFORT, S. DAK.**

Mr. LAMBERT. Honorable members of the Senate subcommittee, my name is Merle Lambert. I operate a farm in district No. 5 of the Spink County Irrigation District.

I am very much in favor of seeing water from the Missouri River brought into our area for irrigation and industrial uses.

It will, without a doubt, greatly influence and stabilize agricultural income over our present uncertain rainfall.

It will help raise our population through new industries promoting jobs for our young people growing up here. At present we are exporting a large percentage of our youth when they start looking for work.

I have three sons of my own that I hope will benefit from this aspect.

At present we have prospects of getting an alfalfa dehydration plant to build in this area on the strength of land presently being irrigated by subsurface water. Surely, with more widespread irrigation, many more industries will be considering this area to build in, causing our population to grow.

Senator McGovern. Thank you for your statement, Mr. Lambert.

Is Mrs. Harry Gunderson here from the League of Women Voters? You are Mrs. Montgomery, but you are speaking for the league.

**STATEMENT OF MRS. T. O. MONTGOMERY, WATER CHAIRMAN,
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

Mrs. MONTGOMERY. Senator McGovern and Senator Burdick, I am Mrs. T. O. Montgomery, of Aberdeen. I am the water chairman for the League of Women Voters of the State of South Dakota.

The League of Women Voters of South Dakota urges prompt action on the Oahe authorization bill.

For some of our project pioneers, it is already too late to see their "promised land" green with irrigation, but their sons carry on with this Oahe plan begun in 1944.

Today we are asking for speedy passage to authorize only the first 190,000 acres of development in Spink and Brown Counties. The entire project will bring water to 495,000 acres.

Important to the whole State is the potential of reservoir water to recharge the underground water supply. Our State geologist, Duncan McGregor, points out that irrigation possibilities can be multiplied 10 to 100 times through the use of deep wells as well as irrigation ditches.

South Dakotans have made every effort. Homefolks spoke at the ballot box when irrigation districts covering 155,000 acres were formed in January 1955. Brown County landowners approved by 82.2 percent and Spink County by 82.7 percent.