

Over three-fourths of the voters in the 15½ counties of the Oahe conservancy subdistrict gave authority to make contracts and to levy 1 mill for project support, at the polls last November.

Our 1966 and 1967 State legislatures passed joint resolutions requesting Congress to authorize the Oahe project at an early date. Governor Boe has endorsed the complete development of 495,000 acres.

South Dakota sent a letter of intent, September 1966, to comply with the Federal Water Projects Recreation Act. Our 1967 legislature passed the enabling act to authorize the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks to participate in certain phases of the Oahe project.

The first stage of 190,000 acres has received departmental sanction and executive review. Our State congressional delegation has sponsored identical bills in each House of Congress to authorize the project.

In a geographical area of marginal rainfall, the benefits to our State would be many: Fish and wildlife development is planned for 18 sites; the expanded recreational facilities in five locations will attract tourists and hold them for a few days to increase our tourist income.

A stable supply of clean, fresh water at the head of our streams would reduce the pollution in slow moving waters of the flatland as well as provide enhanced quality and quantity for industrial and municipal uses for 17 communities. Control of the spring floods in the James River Valley would be aided by the improved channel constructed for irrigation return flow.

We realize that all this will take money—\$203.5 million—this includes \$11 million for future capacity. This is a cost benefit ratio of 2.5 to 1. We hope the funds will be available at an early date.

But, first of all comes authorization.

The League of Women Voters of South Dakota pleads for immediate action. We promise that South Dakotans will be ready when funds are available, to get on with this long awaited Oahe project, which means so much to our State.

Thank you.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you, Mrs. Montgomery, for your statement. The League of Women Voters is doing a fine job of studying and making recommendations on water problems nationally. Your spokesmen appear at our Washington hearings on all water issues. I am glad to see the South Dakota league participating in this work on water resources.

Mr. Montgomery is next.

STATEMENT OF T. O. MONTGOMERY, PRESIDENT, ABERDEEN GARDEN CLUB

Mr. MONTGOMERY. I always have to follow behind my wife.

Senator McGOVERN. We always intend to give the women the last word.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. She will have it, don't worry.

I represent 94 members of the Aberdeen Garden Club. I have a very short statement to make and it's made by Mr. Paul Underwood, a former Spink County agricultural man, and Maurice Anderson, who happens to be a Federal game, fish, and wildlife man in Aberdeen, and