

Mr. W. P. Wells, who is the chemist and the operator of the pumping station at Ordway that supplies Aberdeen with their water.

To: U.S. Water and Power Resources Subcommittee:

The undersigned committee of the Aberdeen Garden Club urges action on the Oahe Irrigation Project at the earliest possible date.

The completion of this project will greatly benefit this agricultural area and aid in lessening the economic problems as they affect the farm income situation. In making more water available, industry will be encouraged to locate in this area and provide good water for cities and towns near the reservoirs and channels.

As representatives of the Aberdeen Garden Club, we are interested in maintaining and increasing the natural beauty of our towns, cities and parks. Water must be available at critical times when not provided by rains to maintain our crops, the health of the people, supporting industry and maintaining the beauty of the area.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you very much for your statement, Mr. Montgomery.

Is John Sutton, Jr. here? Mr. Sutton is from Sully County.

STATEMENT OF JOHN E. SUTTON, JR., AGAR, S. DAK.

Mr. SUTTON. Senator McGovern and Senator Burdick.

My name is John E. Sutton, Jr. of Agar, S. Dak. I wish to testify in favor of the proposed irrigation project.

First, and perhaps most important, I, as an irrigator from Sully County, feel that irrigation will work and return dividends in South Dakota. I'm a novice irrigator with 1 year's experience, but in spite of my mistakes, my corn last year produced 1,350 pounds of beef per acre. After subtracting my total production cost of \$91 an acre, this left a net return of \$246.50 per acre at today's depressed prices. Applying the same figures to my dryland corn last year I had a net return of \$96 an acre. Last year's crop was the best we'd ever raised and an average year would have shown a net return of only \$44.50 per acre. Of course, these figures do not take into account any of the costs of feeding. You must take into account labor, death loss, veterinary, interest and depreciation on equipment, interest on cattle, taxes, and customary drop in price from lighter to heavier cattle. If these are subtracted, the profit picture becomes smaller. You can see though, that the farmer would have much more left over from the \$246.50 than he would from the \$44.50. Also, the production costs will probably be less in the proposed irrigation district.

Secondly, I feel that we must strive to maintain a rural population in States such as South Dakota. We must stop the exodus from the farm to the city, and from rural States to the already overcrowded and problem-plagued metropolitan centers. To do this, we must develop and expand our existing industries rather than try to move industry and people from the urban centers to rural areas. I've heard serious proposals ranging all the way from establishing large Government-supported defense plants in such places to actually creating brandnew cities. This would be fine, we have plenty of room, but I feel it would make more sense to develop irrigation so we may expand what we are already blessed with; namely, rich soil, abundant surface water, and brilliant sunshine. This, together with related industries will provide employment for the youth graduating from our high schools and colleges. It will also stabilize and increase the returns that