

the farmer may expect so he can contribute more fully to the economy of our rural communities, our State, and our Nation.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you for your statement, Mr. Sutton.  
Is Richard Seaman from Sully County here?

**STATEMENT OF RICHARD SEAMAN, ONIDA, S. DAK.**

Mr. SEAMAN. Senator McGovern and Senator Burdick. It is my pleasure to be here this afternoon to speak in favor of the proposed irrigation project.

Many figures have been given to you today, of which you will have ample time to consider them, so I will not burden you with more.

I am just a farm boy who grew up on a farm in the thirties and I hope not to see them again. My dad could tell some drought stories that would equal these that have been told today, but I don't care to see them again or to tell them firsthand.

But I would like to challenge you gentlemen, today, with a sentence that we used to type in high school when I was a boy. "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country."

You, gentlemen, are good men, and I trust that as you go back to Washington that you will come to the aid of our country.

I am a young rancher, farmer, and feeder. I am married with five children. We live on the farm that I grew up on. I now manage the operation which is now known as Seamans Inc., a family corporation, formed for the purpose of making it easier to keep the family farm together as a workable and feasible unit. Stockholders consist of my parents, five brothers, and one sister.

The farm consists of 2,880 acres, 1,900 acres of pasture, tree lots, feedlots, farmstead, and 980 acres of farmland.

We have always operated as a ranching and farming business and throughout the years there has always been the question, "Will we be able to raise enough feed to make it through the winter?"

Usually we make it. Occasionally we even are able to raise enough feed so as to winter the calves hoping to make a little extra profit. There are the other occasions when we are short and even have to sell some of the foundation stock, which in turn hurts the operation because it cuts back on the volume with which we operate.

It was in late 1963 that we investigated and found that we had an underground water supply of sufficient quantity to irrigate a small acreage. So in 1964 we began the first irrigating to be done from wells in Sully County. We now have about 250 acres under irrigation and it certainly has put stability into our operation.

Our production comparison have been about 4 to 1 in favor of irrigating. In other words dry land corn silage cuts approximately 6 tons per acre while irrigated cuts 25 tons per acre. Dryland corn produces 20 to 25 bushels per acre compared to 90 to 100 for irrigated. Alfalfa production is about 1 ton dryland and 5 tons irrigated. I believe that we will be able to increase the yield even more so. I'm really convinced that water at the right time can sure make a great difference.

I believe that farming and ranching are the major industries in central South Dakota and without water in abundance we will be unable to develop this State to its highest and best capabilities.

When we are handicapped by the lack of water, we are unable to utilize all the potential that we have.