

If irrigation could become a reality in central South Dakota, there would be a greater possibility of a place for our young people, because the farms would only have to be one-fourth the size they are now to do the same job of providing income and thereby leaving room for more farms and operators.

As it is now, our young people have to leave the State to find employment thus taking with them our future. I believe that if we could develop a sizable acreage under irrigation that we would have the produce to be processed, as well as a need for manufactured material, thus giving a need for factories, canneries, processing plants, packing plants, plastic industries, and other industries which all employ large numbers of people.

It is almost impossible to get a new start in farming here. All available land is being gobbled up by operators wanting to increase their volume and improve their efficiency thus making land prices and rent prices high as well as the price of equipment and labor. By the time you get interest and taxes paid you just don't have anything left on which to live and pay the principal.

What is true in practically all "public works projects" is true also in this proposed irrigation project. Somebody's gain comes at someone else's loss. It's too bad but that's the way it is and progress is necessary to cope with the needs of the world. True, there will be some who will be hurt but the price for progress has always been this way and I see no other way around it.

In the face of world famine it just doesn't seem right to me for us to sit back and quibble about whether to step forward or not in this proposed project when it could very easily make the difference of four times the amount of production that we could be supplied from our acreage. Two hundred fifty to three hundred thousand acres could do a lot of good in helping to feed the world.

I haven't even mentioned the many other benefits which could be realized, such as municipal water supply, recreational provisions, and wildlife habitat and each of these are an industry of its own.

So, in closing, I sincerely hope that you men, that have been interested with finding out the facts of this project, will see the opportunities that lie in store for us here in South Dakota. I also hope you see the need that we have for this project and that you will go back to Washington and do your utmost to convince Congress to appropriate the funds needed so the first stage of this project might get underway.

Thank you.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you for your statement. Mr. Harold Currier is next. Mr. Currier is also from Sully County.

**STATEMENT OF HAROLD CURRIER, CHAIRMAN, MISSOURI SLOPE
WATER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, ONIDA, S. DAK.**

Mr. CURRIER. Senator McGovern and Senator Burdick, my name is Harold Currier, Onida, S. Dak. I am a farmer. I own 800 acres and rent 480 acres in Sully County. I am here to represent the Missouri Slope Water Development Association. We, as an association, are in the process of forming an irrigation district in Sully County which will consist of around 56,000 acres.