

true and to prove to them that such a project is direly needed and wanted. It is now much more than just a dream, for many years of work of surveying and testing the soil plus organizing the State into water conservancy subdistricts and irrigation districts, has been accomplished.

Beadle County Farmers Union has been working for this dream since the idea was first conceived. We have cooperated with the various committees and supported them all the way. When the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict was former, our Beadle County people voted 86 percent in favor of the proposal and in the last election we gave overwhelming approval to a measure giving the Oahe directors contracting authority.

We believe this project will benefit everyone in our State—either directly or indirectly—by providing a more stable economy, since agriculture is our primary industry and no doubt will continue to be so for many years hence.

We want this water and we want to use it. We are ready to accept the responsibilities and the obligations that go with such a project. We urge this committee to give favorable consideration to Senate bill 6 and to take whatever steps necessary toward expediting the eventual completion of the Oahe irrigation project.

Thank you.

Senator MCGOVERN. Thank you for your statement, Mr. Christensen.

Mr. Allen Haskell is our next witness.

While he is coming up to the table, I might say, we made an effort this morning to encourage at least a few dissenters to speak out. That offer is still open.

We hope if there are people here who want to speak in opposition to the project, they won't hesitate to come forward.

I know of at least one person who feels quite strongly about it, who asked that her statement be filed, and it is a part of the record, but if there is anyone who wants to present anything orally, we invite them to come forward.

Earlier this week we were having hearings in the committee on the dairy control bill and the chairman explained to all the witnesses that we were going to keep an open mind on it and hear people on both sides, which prompted Senator Mondale, to say he agreed we ought to keep an open mind and then pass the bill.

Perhaps that's what some people feel is happening here today. But, we do want you to have the opportunity to come forward.

STATEMENT OF ALLEN HASKELL, FARMER, FRANKFORT, S. DAK.

Mr. HASKELL. My name is Allen Haskell. I live in the Frankfort area along the James River. I have five quarters of land in crops, mostly wheat, corn, and sorghum. We also have a beef cow operation and a few hogs.

My wife and I have three children including a boy in high school and one in the grades. I believe irrigation in this area would be a big help in keeping these young boys in the State. With irrigation we could be more assured of a feed grain crop. Cattle and hogs are an important part of farming here as we have large areas unsuitable for