

the humid land of the east and the arid land to the west. These lands offer hope to an overcrowded and hungry world, for they represent potential settlement opportunities and some of the potentially most fertile soils of the globe. But to make possible successful living in this semiarid area requires greater knowledge of our problems and better efforts at solving them than have heretofore been known or made. It has not yet been demonstrated that civilization can thrive in these American plains without subsidy. Especially is this true of a civilization that is shaped preponderantly by humid-area institutions and values. Our climate is more unique than most people realize. Our area is not semiarid in that the climate is halfway between humid and arid. We are not half-dry and half-wet; rather, some years we are dry and even arid; other years we are very wet, and still, in other years, we are wet or dry at the wrong times from the standpoint of agricultural production and yields. However, with the development of the Oahe Irrigation District we can have a new type of stability.

Our area can take on the form of a true "irrigation agriculture economy" rather than that of an irrigated oasis-like development. Irrigation agriculture, rather than serving as an "operational base" for an imported humid-area culture, can be the foundation for a semiarid agricultural economy in our area. By proper integration between dryland agriculture and ranching on the one hand, and irrigation on the other hand, it is possible to bring together the sutland and the yonland of the region, and on this, build a regional economy that will benefit all in our area—dryland farmers, ranchers, irrigation farmers, laborers, businessmen and professional people.

We residents of this area have some of the necessary knowledge, skill, and inventions to produce efficiently under conditions of semiaridity. But we do not have all the answers to the needs. We, too, must observe and learn. We must have the courageous willingness to experiment in those matters that pertain to fitting our area into a better place to live. The only question that remains is whether there is the will on the part of the people in this region and in the Nation to do these things before it is too late.

In closing, please allow me to tell of my own personal concern. I am one of the directors of the Northern Electric Cooperative that has been watching the development of this irrigation district with great interest. Even though I am out of the district at the present time, I do hope, and I am sure, that as soon as this first phase is projected, more of us on the east side of the river will follow. As an individual, I certainly hope so.

The rest of the Nation and other industry have lured away thousands of our greatest resource—our boys and girls. This much change and the development of this irrigation district will help. This is my own case, certainly no different than hundreds of others: I have five sons, three are attending South Dakota colleges. Two are majoring in law and one in business administration; none of them is attending my old alma mater, South Dakota State College. All three boys liked the farm, but were doubtful of their security on the land. I hope that by the time my two elementary sons are ready for college, this district will be in operation and that my own area will have joined to make it even more successful; so that my two younger sons and many more like them, will have a desire to attend an agricultural college and re-