

Senator McGovern. Is Reverend LaRue of Redfield, here?

Reverend LaRue. Yes.

Senator McGovern. I understand he has an oral statement. We would like to hear from Rev. A. E. LaRue at this time.

STATEMENT OF REV. A. E. LaRUE, PRESIDENT, SPINK COUNTY MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

Reverend LaRue. Senator McGovern and Senator Burdick, I am kind of curious about that story last night. That preacher wasn't really quite ready for heaven. I don't know whether you should finish it here or not.

My name is Reverend LaRue and I am pastor of the Wesleyan Methodist Church here in Redfield, and president of the Spink County Ministerial Association.

I have already filed my statement, but I did want to have the privilege of expressing my concern personally to you fellows.

We, the members of the Spink County Ministerial Association, being interested in the physical, moral, and spiritual welfare of our constituency, wholeheartedly support the Oahe irrigation project. Our reasons for this support are—

1. One of the world's greatest needs is for food for the starving millions. We, in this community, would welcome the opportunity to provide a greater share of food and fiber for the world, so that these people might know a better way of life.

2. The Oahe irrigation project would provide a stronger economic foundation and would enable people in this area to develop their cultural interests and abilities leading to a fuller community life.

3. Feeling there is a relationship between working with the soil and the building of character, we are interested in seeing as many people having the opportunity of remaining on the farm as possible.

We therefore strongly endorse the Oahe irrigation project and request the early development of the project by the Congress of the United States.

Senator McGovern. Reverend LaRue, we appreciate your statement. I think that the statement about the role food can play in a hungry world is one we can't express too much.

That, as you know, is one near my heart. I always thought if we could find some way to remove hunger in the world—that's going to be hard to do—but if working with other countries we could help them to help themselves so the average person in these developing countries had at least some hope for life and some chance of giving his family, at least, the very essentials of life, I don't think we would have to worry about a Communist appeal to those people.

I don't know of any country on earth that has voluntarily turned to communism where the people had a decent standard of life. I think this is the kind of effort most Americans want to see our country making and it's one of the best ways we can advance the cause of peace and freedom around the world.

So, we appreciate your statement.