

Senator BURDICK: I appreciate Reverend LaRue's statement for that and another reason.

You alluded to the use of community life. In my State of North Dakota, we have vanishing of church, school, and post office populations. Is that true, you are having this problem with the churches maintaining populations? And, of course, the school reorganization testified as to the loss of school districts. Is that going apace in South Dakota, too?

Reverend LARUE: Yes; it certainly is, and one of our concerns as pastors, is that whenever we lose these young people from the rural areas of our land, they are assimilated into the large cities and are at times lost to the church, lost as far as spiritual teaching is concerned because when they have moved into these large industrial areas, they lose contact with the church.

We all know from a matter of record that the morals of people and problems and social problems of such areas are larger in the cities than they are out here in the rural areas.

Personally, I had an opportunity to move—the pastor relation committee called me just recently offering me an opportunity in a larger area—but I have two children and I like Redfield and I think it has potentiality here.

Senator MCGOVERN: Thank you very much, Reverend LaRue.

Michael Dunn is our next witness.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL DUNN, PRESIDENT, WHITETAIL
BOWMEN ARCHERY CLUB, INC., ABERDEEN, S. DAK.**

Mr. DUNN: Thank you Senator McGovern and Senator Burdick.

I am Michael Dunn, president of the Whitetail Bowmen Archery Club, Inc., of Aberdeen, S. Dak. I am representing this club which has a present membership of 121.

We are interested in the effects the Oahe irrigation project will have on the wildlife habitat in the James River Valley and request that provisions be made for the preservation and/or the replacement in kind.

The habitat is supporting a large deer herd and other wildlife which is affording us recreation in the form of bow hunting. This bow hunting is not limited to deer hunting, but a large variety of hunting is being enjoyed. This hunting includes rabbits, squirrels, pheasants, ducks, and predators.

In the past year 1966-67, the club had 31 organized deer hunts amounting to 310 man-days. In addition to this, many of our club members hunted individually.

In the past, the James River Valley has offered the club an invaluable source of recreation. This recreation has not by any means been limited to bowhunters. The club also realizes that in the future the river bottom will become increasingly more valuable.

It is for these reasons the club is concerned with the preservation of the oxbows and other wildlife habitat for the use of future sportsmen.

With the inclusion of a provision for the protection of wildlife habitat the Whitetail Bowmen Archery Club, Inc., would be in concurrence with the Oahe irrigation project.

Thank you.