

acre places, most of those fellows went broke. You can't buy the machinery and farm now days on 150 acres or 160, whatever the limitation is. Even the 320 is pretty small.

You have got to use modern machinery and if you do, you've got to have a big enough operation to pay for it, so there is some question.

Senator McGOVERN. What size unit would you suggest would be economical, Mr. McNenny?

Mr. McNENNY. Well, that depends on what type of crops you are raising. For corn and alfalfa, I would say 400 acres at least, 400 to 500 acres would be required to keep a family on the farm.

Senator McGOVERN. Even under irrigation?

Mr. McNENNY. Yes. We have our own place and we have a couple hundred acres of irrigated alfalfa and we don't farm and raise livestock, but where you are strictly in the farming business, I think it would take at least 400 or 500 acres.

I think we should make a thorough study in these places like Angostura, where it was divided into smaller areas.

Senator BURDICK. History has shown, Mr. McNenny, that very little grain is raised in irrigation plots. It is strictly feed crops and sugar beets and things of that nature.

Mr. McNENNY. Well, some grain.

Senator BURDICK. General rule, though, not very much.

Mr. McNENNY. A quarter section of sugar beets is a lot of farming, but a quarter section of irrigated corn or alfalfa, there is not much there.

Senator BURDICK. The theory behind the 160 acres is that you spread more benefits to more people.

Mr. McNENNY. That was all right 50 years ago, but I think it should be repealed at this time or modified so people can make a living on these places and if they are going to limit them, and, as I understand the law, that if you don't do anything by limiting your land to 160 acres within 10 years, the Federal Government does it for you.

Senator BURDICK. No.

Mr. McNENNY. That was my understanding of it.

Senator BURDICK. The 10-year provision of this bill is that you shall not dedicate this land to crops that are receiving Government supports for 10 years from the time of the enactment, but if a demand for what continues, maybe that may be meaningless.

Mr. McNENNY. We filed one statement and I think maybe we shall file a little more.

And I think I would certainly urge you make a study of the areas such as Angostura and try to try something here that would limit the cost of the water and also make the unit big enough so that people can live on them under whatever type of farming they are trying to do.

Senator McGOVERN. I think these are legitimate questions you have raised here and things we ought to look into carefully when we get into the hearings later on this year.

I would say this in passing: I can't recall in the years I have been in Washington, and maybe Senator Burdick can correct me on this, of any group coming into our committee to appeal for the end of an irrigation project. In every instance I know of where there have been