

supply both in the surface and on the ground for domestic and live stock areas and smaller recreational areas in this area.

We lose an average of two out of three corn crops, and I am speaking of the area in eastern Beadle County, due to the dry periods in eastern South Dakota. We feel there is no better money spent than bringing water to the land, especially now that a shortage of food is predicted in the next decade.

It provides loans and grants in the drought stricken areas and creates more employment in the area of the population and increases and reverses the flow of implication from rural to urban areas to seek employment. Also, it will attract related industry to this area which the State so badly needs.

Much of the cost of irrigation development will be required by the Government through water-use payments. New taxes from individuals and new industries and community farmers but, most of all, I reiterate that it will provide means by which more food and fiber can be grown on less land than before, as we are losing much productive land through new housing and highways and industrial expansion.

The light and power that we receive from the development that has taken place so far has created, and all been absorbed, and additional powerplants are being constructed and are planning or being constructed, which pays for much of this development in this area insofar as the cost as a secondary factor to the needs and wants of the particular area.

It cuts down crop losses; the population will be more stable; our young people will enjoy recreation in this area.

There is always a help toward getting them to stay on the farm. We have much trouble in keeping young people in relation to older people, on the farm, and I am just filing a statement here and that is all I have to say and thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

I am a farmer from Yale, S. Dak., here today as a member of the board of directors of Beadle Electric Cooperative, Inc. Our cooperative has the task of providing electric power for virtually every corner of the rural area of Beadle County. This amounts to something like 1,900 families, or perhaps a full 6,000 people.

Very few members of Beadle Electric Cooperative will receive direct benefits from this project. But their life can improve as that of the entire region is improved by Oahe. Perhaps in a later stage, 600 or so acres may be irrigated in our county. There will be some canal mileage and two pumping plants in our county, and the Byron Reservoir will be enlarged.

Our cooperative has been a consistent supporter of the Oahe project. We want to see the fish and wildlife and recreation benefits it will bring. We want to see the water supply in central South Dakota made more dependable. And we want irrigation to help stabilize the economic stabilization, perhaps is greatest of all the benefits of irrigation, instead of depending on the accident of nature—rain that may come or may not come—a great part of the year. Livestock feeders in our county would have an assured supply of feed.

Yields of most crops could likewise increase. In Beadle County we have watched the steady increase in the use of irrigation by individual farmers who have independent sources of water supply. The county average yield for alfalfa is about 1.5 tons per acre. Irrigators now