

pected to operate for less than parity, when other segments in the economy receive parity. Why shouldn't we, also?

Agriculture is a very basic part of any economy of any nation and this is being denied agriculture today. We speak today of 72-percent parity and Washington is rumbling 77 percent under the same token, but in my opinion actual parity today is probably 25 to 27 percent. Am I correct, Mr. Senator?

Senator McGOVERN. I couldn't answer that. I doubt if it is that low, but it is not high enough.

Mr. KLICKER. This is what I would call actual parity, paying from 42 to 44.

Senator McGOVERN. My knowledge is that average farm income is about two-thirds of the national average and that's not enough. I would not put it as low as your figure, but it is certainly not high enough.

Mr. KLICKER. I am basing it on what we received under the 90 percent parity. In 1963 when wheat was \$2.97 a bushel and corn was \$1.79 by the Federal Government—what is the support on corn and wheat today?

This is what I base parity on, and if the commodities and products that farmers buy today are from 5 to 7 times higher than they were then, then how can we consider parity as such we have today?

This is the quarrel I have. Now, under this Irrigation Act, this will not solve our problem. Our expenses will be enough greater that we are still producing for less than cost. This is what I am getting at. This does not solve our problem. It will solve our problem to a certain extent. Basically, it will help industry to come in to it, a larger population of people to live in these communities, yes, but what we have, we have four masses still with us. This is correct; or is this wrong?

Senator McGOVERN. I don't think anybody agrees that irrigation is a cure-all for all of our problems.

I think it is an important step, but we are not making any attempt to deal with the whole agricultural problem.

Mr. KLICKER. I agree with you 100 percent, but in Washington, D.C., we have one thing that is very wrong. We have free world foods trade.

Our farmers must produce at a world competitive price, and our industries have the highest protection this world has ever known. It is very imperative this cannot continue. Because this is an unbalanced sick economy, the only way we can become strong and firm is through a balanced economy. That cannot continue to carry on.

This is all I have to say, and I thank you very much.

Senator McGOVERN. Thank you for your statement. We appreciate that.

Let me just make it clear here again, I am sure that neither Senator Burdick nor Senator Moss, if he were here, would want to leave the impression that we conducted these hearings in a notion that it was going to end all our problems in South Dakota. We have a lot of things we have to deal with and today we are relating our efforts to one aspect of the problem and that's more efficient and proper use of our water resources.

At this time I have a resolution from the Common Council of the City of Miller, which I shall make a part of this record, if there is no objection.