

The area in which we live will benefit also from the construction of this project. The primary feeder canal crosses the northern part of our county. This water supply will help fill some of our small dams and provide some water for irrigation, for the farmers and ranchers along the canal.

While we believe the Oahe unit is essential, we have some misgivings as to the amount of land being considered for wild life in our area, some 12,000 acres of very good farm and ranch land. We do not believe this is essential part of the project, and this part should be reconsidered.

Members of the subcommittee, we urge you most strongly to press for the authorization and construction of this most critically needed project.

STATEMENT OF FLOYD L. STOLTENBERG, STRATFORD, S. DAK.

Honorable members of the Senate subcommittee my name is Floyd L. Stoltenberg. I live about thirty-five miles northeast of Redfield, in Irrigation District #4.

I am interested in irrigation because of numerous things, mainly because it would provide an ag. related job to the members of my family. Consequently, there would be a production of new monies for the whole area concerned, which would help the economy of the State.

STATEMENT OF KENNETH A. LILLEMOR, MELLETTTE, S. DAK.

Honorable members of the Senate subcommittee, my name is Kenneth A. Lillemor. I farm in Tetonka township near Mellettte, South Dakota, in Irrigation District #4.

I believe that irrigation will be a great asset to South Dakota. The economy of our state is built on agriculture and anything which will expand and stabilize agriculture will expand our entire economy.

I lived through the dust storms of the 1930's and I remember my father and his neighbors putting up Russian thistles for hay. All other sources of feed had dried out. Thistles were about the only thing that would grow.

I remember 1959 and several other years when a little water at the right time could have made a world of difference in our economy. I am sure that we all realize what could happen if we got three or four years in succession such as 1959. There is hardly a year goes by that we don't have a dry period and some water at the right time could make a lot of difference. Many times I've seen crops planted on alfalfa ground and look beautiful until it ran out of water, and then nothing. I can think of several incidences in which there was a potential bumper corn crop on alfalfa ground but it didn't pay to harvest because of the lack of water.

There are many advantages which would be beneficial to our agricultural economy but I believe one which would be a great asset is the increase in farm population. This would bring about a greater tax base and much improved rural community facilities; our schools and churches would benefit greatly and we could offer our children broader educational opportunities at less cost to the individual taxpayer.

In conclusion, I feel that the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

STATEMENT OF HUBERT PETERSON, NORTHVILLE, S. DAK.

Honorable members of the Senate subcommittee, my name is Hubert Peterson. I would like to see irrigation come to this area for the many opportunities and challenges that irrigation would bring. Having been born, raised and lived on the same northern Spink County farm for fifty years, I can well remember the dirty thirties. The hardships and uncertainties that dry weather can bring. I have seen farms disappear, the farmer leave the state, small towns fade away, merchants closing their stores and moving elsewhere, many outside the state.

Schools consolidate for need of children and finances; Churches struggle and die in need of preachers, parishioners and money; a son graduates from high school and college and then leaves South Dakota because opportunity was greater elsewhere. All this happens before my eyes, while each day in newspapers and