

the squeeze on the member-owners of the rural electric systems and contributing to a more prosperous and stable economy for the entire state.

SDREA firmly believes that rural families in rural enterprises are a balancing force in the social and political structure that is vital to the stability, preservation and improvement of representative democratic government; of an efficient and economic productive system; of a satisfying world society and that the individually owned and operated farm is essential to the preservation and enrichment of the private enterprise system.

On behalf of the rural electric cooperatives of South Dakota I would like to thank the members of this subcommittee for your valuable time and for your diligent efforts to learn first hand the sentiment of the people of South Dakota concerning Senate Bill 6.

We consider this project second to none as it relates to the growth and development of our state and as it may serve to preserve for South Dakota our most valuable resource . . . our people . . .

Your recommendation for authorization of the Oahe Unit to the full committee and subsequent favorable action by that body will assure the people of South Dakota that the elected representatives of the people of these United States are indeed cognizant of the needs of a diminishing rural population.

OAHU IRRIGATION UNIT, SDREA ANNUAL MEETING 1967, RESOLUTION

Whereas the future economic and social well-being of South Dakota depends upon the development of the State's natural resources, chief among which is water, and

Whereas the construction of the Oahe Irrigation Unit will make Missouri River water available for the irrigation of 495,000 acres of land, which in turn will result in increased and stabilized agricultural production on lands presently under cultivation, and

Whereas the increased and stabilized agricultural production from irrigated lands integrated with nearby dryland will result in increased population, employment opportunities and business activity which will be reflected in the economy of the state, region and nation;

Now therefore be it resolved that the South Dakota Rural Electric Association, consisting of 36 member cooperatives, duly assembled at its annual convention in Huron, South Dakota, this 24 day of January, 1967, favors the early authorization of the Oahe Unit by the Congress of the United States.

STATEMENT OF JOE H. NEUMAYR, ATTORNEY, GETTYSBURG, S. DAK.

I represent a group of land owners from Western Sully County, South Dakota. It is a voluntary group of land owners who have associated themselves together to resist the formation of the Missouri Slope Irrigation District in that area.

The first attempt to organize such an irrigation district was commenced with the filing, under date of April 7, 1964, in the offices of the County Auditors of Sully and Potter Counties, of ten (10) "Petition for Organization of the Missouri Slope Irrigation District". These petitions requested the formation of an irrigation district containing approximately 133,988 acres of land in Sully and Potter Counties, but only about 10,000 acres of the total 133,988 acres were located in Potter County. It was claimed such proposed irrigation district encompassed all of the feasible irrigable land in the area, and as such proposed district contained land in both Sully and Potter Counties the joint hearing upon such petitions, and as to whether or not an election should be held for the formation of such district, was set for May 6, 1964 at the courtroom, in the courthouse, in the City of Onida, Sully County, South Dakota. On that date the Boards of County Commissioners of Sully and Potter Counties, in a joint meeting, voted to reject the petitions. No appeal was taken from such joint action of the Boards of County Commissioners of Sully and Potter Counties, and no election was held on the question of the formation of such district. It is believed that this hearing and the records in regard to the same as on file in the Auditor's Office at Onida, South Dakota, conclusively show that the majority of the land owners in the district as proposed were not in favor of forming such an irrigation district.

On July 6, 1965, petitions were again submitted for Organization of the Missouri Slope Irrigation District, a bond, and two letters of incorporation, to