

STATEMENT OF WALTER J. THORES, MAYOR, AND THE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF FAULKTON, S. DAK.

The City of Faulkton, Faulk County, South Dakota is a municipal corporation located in the area which will be affected by the early development of the Oahe Unit, and the said City has passed a resolution on its books requesting the earliest possible completion date for the Oahe Irrigation Unit. The City of Faulkton issued this resolution because the officials feel that the City of Faulkton will be in need of the water, for domestic use, which will result from the completion of this project.

It is also the feeling of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Faulkton that since the area surrounding this municipality is based upon the primary industry of agriculture and because of the inconsistency in the amount of rainfall in this area, the economy of the City of Faulkton and the surrounding community varies greatly with the weather conditions, and it is believed that the irrigation district in the immediate vicinity of the municipality of Faulkton will greatly enhance the stability and the economy of this area. It will relieve the deviation and irregularity as to income the farms in this area will produce, and that a constant source of water provided by the Oahe Unit will provide a constant income and a growing economy for Faulkton and its immediate vicinity.

It is also pointed out that within the next few years, that the growing population of the United States and of the world will make it necessary that the agricultural producing areas, produce as much food as possible in order to relieve the food shortage which now exists and will be an ever increasing problem. It is therefore felt that it is for the welfare of the residents of the City of Faulkton, the County of Faulk and the State of South Dakota and they will be greatly benefited by the completion at the earliest possible date of the Oahe Irrigation Unit;

Therefore it is the request of the City of Faulkton, through its Mayor and duly elected officials that the United States Congress enact legislation that will hasten at the earliest possible date the construction of the Oahe Irrigation Unit.

STATEMENT OF CLAYTON SEIBEL, PRESIDENT OF THE MARSHALL COUNTY FARMERS UNION, KIDDER, S. DAK.

My name is Clayton Seibel. I farm near Kidder, South Dakota. I want to stay on the farm. And I want my children and my neighbor's children to have an opportunity to stay on the farm if they want to. I am here today to present a statement on behalf of the Marshall County Farmers Union in support of the Oahe Project.

Our county is not included in the first stage authorization under consideration by your committee. If, as they say, it will be 10 years after authorization before the first water can be placed on the land in the first unit, it may be many more years before Marshall County gets much direct benefit. Many of the people in my organization will not live to see that day. But that does not diminish their enthusiastic support of this critically needed project.

The surpluses which were an explosive campaign issue and 1960 and 1964 are gone. Some economists fear that our reserves of feed grains are insufficient to weather a sustained drought. Certainly our food stocks are nowhere adequate to the task of feeding a hungry world's people who increase faster than our capability to produce food. Rather than seeking to take land out of production, even this year the Agriculture Department wants to have at least part of it returned to production. Our own Senator McGovern is perhaps the nation's foremost authority on feeding a hungry world. Certainly he has been the conscience of our society in this area.

If we look at the increased food productivity which Oahe will make possible from a global basis, we see it taking an increasing importance. Since the time of creation, our human race has managed to achieve three billion population. Before the end of the century less than 33 years from now, the population will double to more than six billion. In a world in which three million children die each year from diseases induced or complicated by malnutrition, it is a clear responsibility on us as the richest nation in the world to find ways of increasing world food production. From a world-wide viewpoint the approval and construction of the Oahe Project is something we can delay no further.