

People make the real difference in farming. When we talk about a reauthorization of the Riverton project, we are really talking about reauthorizing the future of these agricultural people.

S. 670 and its companion bill in the House, H.R. 3062, will allow for fundamental and important changes in the method of administering and caring for the lands of the Midvale Irrigation District and the third division of the Riverton project as well. Through these changes, the future of the lands will be much improved, the economy of the area will receive major benefit, and the Federal Government will be placed in a much more profitable and tenable position relative to these lands.

It is not my intention to go into the technicalities of the project, or examine S. 670 in detail. There are technical experts on hand today to speak to you in these areas.

But, if I may, I would like to make comment on several aspects of the bill and its benefits.

First, I am sure you are well aware of the major contribution which the State of Wyoming has made to the Federal Government from its mineral royalties. The Federal Government holds the mineral rights on 72 percent of lands within Wyoming's borders.

Nearly \$600 million in mineral royalties has been paid into the Federal Government from lands within the borders of Wyoming and more than half that amount has gone to the Bureau of Reclamation. Wyoming contributes 38 percent of all Federal revenues collected from minerals by the United States. That is a rather staggering figure, but I am sure it can be substantiated. Down through the years, less money has been loaned to us than we have paid into the reclamation fund. And I would emphasize the word "loan," for the great majority of these reclamation monies are tied to repayment contracts, such as the one we propose for the Riverton project, and the present Midvale contract.

We would like a greater return of these mineral royalty monies to Wyoming, perhaps for many purposes including education, highways, water development, and industrial development, but that is another subject. Under present law, 37½ percent of these minerals' royalties are returned to the State while 62½ percent go to the reclamation fund and for administration purposes.

We feel that the Riverton project should participate in the net revenues of the Missouri River Basin project with these revenues applied to reimbursable costs not assigned for repayment by irrigators. The Wind River is one of the mightiest tributaries of the Missouri system, and the Riverton project has had to bear unreasonable repayment costs because of its exclusion from the Missouri River Basin project. S. 670 will include the entire Riverton Federal reclamation project in the Missouri River Basin project system.

Midvale farmers have already made giant strides in the rehabilitation of the first and second divisions. The Midvale farmers have obligated themselves for \$4.5 million which has provided for the reclamation and protection against waterlogging and salinization of over 20 percent of the project. In addition, these farmers have spent much of their own money for tiles and drains, desilting and diversion. But the burden of reclamation cannot be accelerated fast enough without the benefits of S. 670.