

Governor HATHAWAY. Well, I am not sure of the exact dates, but the Bureau of Reclamation purchased the lands on the third division.

Senator JORDAN. And that is the status that it is in now?

Governor HATHAWAY. It is owned by the Bureau at the present time; yes, sir.

Senator JORDAN. What you are seeking to do here is to have it resold to the farmers who would go on the third division and go forward with the sale as was intended to be done in the first place?

Governor HATHAWAY. Seeking authorization for sales with the preference rights to those farmers on the first and second divisions to purchase land on the third division; yes.

Senator JORDAN. What reason do we have to believe that these farmers, given the opportunity now to go on the third division, have a better chance to succeed than those who preceded them?

Governor HATHAWAY. I think, because of the demonstration of their success presently as farmers on the first and second divisions, they are good farmers. A number of them have leased lands from the Bureau of Reclamation on the third division. The productivity of these lands has increased greatly under their stewardship.

Senator JORDAN. I notice in the bill that you are still sticking to the 160-acre limitation. Can a farmer make a living on 160 acres in the Riverton Third Division?

Governor HATHAWAY. Well, I doubt that a farmer can make a living on 160 acres in many places in this day and age. I think that this limitation is unrealistic under present farming methods. The larger unit is needed in almost any area of my section of the country.

Senator JORDAN. If that limitation is going to prevail in this legislation, as I understand it will, how about that?

Governor HATHAWAY. As I understand it, they seek to classify the lands and to allow more acres of lower class lands and still fit within that limitation.

Senator JORDAN. But that limitation for larger acreage is for lands of lower productivity?

Governor HATHAWAY. Yes, I think this is a realistic approach.

Senator JORDAN. Thank you. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Moss?

Senator Moss. I am not sure I have any questions of the Governor. I appreciate his testimony.

Like other members of the committee, I can recall dealing with this Riverton matter. Your faith in the ability of the farmers in the first and second divisions to be able to make a living, and a proper one, in the third division is heartening. The investment having been made, it is to be hoped that we can make the project go and not just let it wither and die. So, I will go into a more technical discussion of it when the other witnesses come up.

Thank you, Governor.

Governor HATHAWAY. Thank you.

Senator ANDERSON. Do you have any comment on the law that was passed in 1964 which would, probably, be of help?

Governor HATHAWAY. I do not have any comments, sir, because that was before I was active in my own State government.

Senator ANDERSON. As I understand it, the bill was to negotiate with the owners of the land to buy back that land. Did they buy it back?