

Governor HATHAWAY. It has been purchased by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Senator ANDERSON. Why do you want to turn it back to the people who abandoned it?

Governor HATHAWAY. These are not the same people who are on it.

Senator ANDERSON. What do the farmers who hold their land have now to be able to repurchase this acreage?

Governor HATHAWAY. My estimation is that if the third division had been included originally in this project, it would have all been one project, and the Government would never have been asked to repurchase the third division. The experience in the first and second divisions of the project has been very, very good. They have never missed a payment in the repayment charges. The farmers are relatively prosperous, and in my estimation they have the ability to rehabilitate about 8,000 acres of the third division. This is not all of the original project. It was originally about 25,000 acres. Obviously, some of it is nonproductive, but some of it could be irrigated and the remainder could be made productive grazing lands for livestock.

Senator ANDERSON. Do you want the 160-acre limitation?

Governor HATHAWAY. No, sir. I do not think that is realistic. I doubt that it is anywhere in the West anymore. Farmers and ranchers are having a tough time making a living. I do not think that they can make it on an average of 160 acres.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Hansen?

Senator HANSEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to emphasize the point that the Governor has just made, that the third division is only a part of the total project.

Secondly, I would like to repeat again what the Governor said, that when this project was brought into being we had not developed the concept of applying power revenues to the support of an irrigation project. What has been done in Wyoming has been done either by direct appropriations or at the expense—the total expense—of those farmers who were there. This bill would do several things.

First of all, as I understand it, it would bring the entire project under the Missouri River Basin power system, so that it could enjoy the support that comes from the development and the sale of power on these major river systems just as most of the projects are now enjoying that support.

Secondly, the third division must be considered in the context of the overall project, and I take it, from the Governor's statement, that we should not pin ourselves down to a particular narrow concept.

The Bureau of Reclamation has the ability—I am convinced of that and I am also convinced that the people out there have the ability and the desire to make the whole thing work.

These units were too small. And as is true everywhere, in farming and ranching there are differences, and it is also true that there are a lot of differences between farmers themselves. I have seen farmers that I am sure could have gone broke and others would make a go of it. We think that the thing that was lacking out there most was experience and the desire to be good farmers.

If we had had the assurance that each of the settlers had the experience and the knowledge, and also has the motivation to stay on the