

I think about this project. They know. We have lived with these fellows, and they have lived with us for many years on this question. So, I am going to submit it for the record, if that is permissible.

Senator ANDERSON. It will be made a part of the record at this point. (The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. GALE MCGEE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM WYOMING

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, we have before us a bill which at first glance may seem a rather minor matter when one considers the wide range of problems with which the Senate Interior Committee is concerned. Yet the testimony and the rather astounding performance of the Riverton Project farmers should disabuse any notion that S. 670 is a minor matter.

S. 670 seeks to reauthorize the Riverton extension unit of the Missouri River Basin Project to include therein the entire Riverton Federal Reclamation Project and for other purposes.

You have already heard Governor Hathaway's impressive testimony, and before we finish you will have heard from my colleagues Senator Hansen and Congressman Harrison, as well as members of the Board of Commissioners of the Midvale Irrigation District, their attorney, the District Manager, the President of the Cottonwood Bench Association, Oscar K. Barnes, of the Agricultural Extension Service at The University of Wyoming, and Roy Peck, Executive director of the Wyoming Natural Resource Board, on the imperative for the bill introduced by Senator Hansen and myself.

Some comment must be made about those from Wyoming who have come so many miles to pursue what is so vital not only to themselves but to the economy, social structure, and well-being of Fremont County, the State of Wyoming, and, it is my conviction, Mr. Chairman, to the well-being of the country.

A special word must be said for the Commissioners and their District Manager. Oftentimes, Mr. Chairman, those who testify before Senate Committees are men of considerable expertise, but they are also men who are sometimes far removed from the actual conduct of the affairs about which they testify. But in the case before us today we have not just the stereotype of the manager, but men who are and have been operators of the farms which have done so well on the Riverton Project. In a very real way these men depend for their livelihood, for themselves and their families, upon their determination, considerable talent as agriculturists, and their grit to wrest a living from an environment which is by no means kind.

What you will discover in the testimony that follows is the striking capabilities of these productive people. For aside from the requirement of developing the necessary talents previously mentioned to stay afloat in modern agriculture is a sense of working with nature, not fighting her. So much of the fiction that is written about farming makes farming appear to be a simple and easy process. These men testifying before you today demonstrate the very opposite.

Even more worthy of mention is the acute sense of function and the resultant harmony that is so characteristic of their lives. These men know who they are. And certainly such a condition requires praise in a world where so much is written concerning those who appear to be lost and without direction. Indeed, it has often occurred to me that resolution to what some people call the problem of the hippy might very well be if those who consider themselves alienated, as well as hip, could be involved with the farmers on the Riverton Project. Not that the hard work that they would experience would cause a reconstruction of their point of view, but that they would witness in a most profound way men who are in tandem with their environment.

Mr. Fred Anglen, President of the Midvale Board of Commissioners, has been a Commissioner of the District for 5 years. He has been on the Project since 1937 and has successfully come to grips with the difficulties of irrigation farming. I think you will find his testimony a striking example of farm savvy.

Mr. Carl Welty lives on a farm near Pavillion, Wyo., and has farmed on the Project since 1938. He, too, demonstrates an impressive talent to deal successfully with what is essentially a hostile environment.

Mr. Edward L. Bogacz also farms near Pavillion. Since 1937 his intrepid pursuit of successful farming on the Project has been an outstanding example of a man's ability to make a difficult operation go.