

Without completion of canal lining, drains, and structure rehabilitation, the Riverton Project can be expected to deteriorate progressively and rapidly to the point of virtual abandonment.

The Class 2, 3, and 5 developed lands of the Riverton Project can be protected so as to keep the Project in full production by an expenditure of about \$11½ million. Nowhere in the western United States can project-type land can be reclaimed and protected.

Mr. Chairman, this bill introduced by Senator Hansen and myself is the same as S. 1746, which I introduced in the 89th Congress. Let me emphasize once again its purpose is to reauthorize the entire Riverton Unit as one entity placing the admittedly troublesome Third Division under the administration of the Midvale Irrigation District and providing for a single repayment contract.

The potential risks of reauthorization of this Project are outweighed by the advantages of operating the entire project as one unit. The alternative is, in effect, virtual abandonment of well-designed, properly constructed works on the Third Division at a loss of about \$18 million in Federal investment.

So far as I am concerned, and I know I speak for Wyoming in this, the bill here presented is of vast importance. It is my earnest hope that the hearings here today will result in your favorable action.

Senator McGEE. I want to thank the chairman of this committee in particular for going out of his way to make this hearing possible. I think it is that important, and the cooperation we have received from this committee on this is most appreciated by all of us.

I think that these men, who have come all the way from Wyoming, who have grown up with this, who have watched its good parts flower and its weak parts have troubles, will have something to say here that will contribute to the thinking of all of us. And in order to get down to the real nub of the situation, I shall forego my eloquent speech about each of the Wyoming delegation—that which they already know. They will read about themselves when you print the record.

I have left a copy of my prepared remarks with them and told them, anyway, so they know what we think.

Perhaps, more than some of the others, I have had to sweat this out for the 9 years that I have been here in the Senate. And like some other statements that other people have said about other crises, I did not create this one. We have tried to live with it.

And when we are talking about a crisis, we are talking about the third division. I am not talking about the Riverton project as a whole. I do not intend to rake over the old ashes or even open the closet doors to look at some of the embarrassing skeletons in it because some of them are not very pleasant ones to look at. They involve personalities on the third division. There were many emotions in that closet, there were lawyer fees, there were bitter political rivalries, all in the past, that lurk around the fringes, that have contributed to the build-up of this explosion that reached its ultimate in 1963 and 1964. What we propose to do in this bill, the bill which was introduced in the last session and which Senator Hansen and I have pushed in this session with our colleague in the House, Mr. Harrison, for the consideration of the Congress this year, is to salvage and keep going that which would serve the national interest, the State's interest, the equities of these individuals, and a productive Riverton project. All this hinges on the third division.

These gentlemen here are all of the guys that prove that you can farm a piece of land if you work at it and you are given just half a