

chance. They provide more than the other half that it takes to make it work.

In the third division, after we separated all of it, well, I will not say that, but after some of the troublemakers were removed from the scene, we learned the hard way that mistakes were made in the selection of individuals who were selected to settle the third division. These people fully exploited the situation to their own advantage. There remains a meaningful segment of the third division, and it would be a tragedy to forfeit it to mismanagement or no management, and that is what is going to happen right now if we do not take some action. I refer to the 8,000 acres that the Governor discussed. We believe this makes it possible to strengthen the Riverton project without burdening it with those portions that were once in the third division and which are not of sufficient quality to justify further development at this time. In other words, this says that we are preserving the best, the cream of the third division to the advantage of the whole project. And we believe that we can risk the loss of the liability without any great loss to either the Federal Government or to the community in central Wyoming, and that is the reason for restructuring this authorization.

These fellows who are here now are in business, and they are in a going business. We will keep them living hand to mouth until we can get the Riverton thing going again on more than an annual reinsurance basis which we have had to do for some time because of the troubles of the third division. And out of consideration for them, out of consideration for what has been a productive Federal investment that has brought in, up until now, \$60 million—nearly that—in agricultural produce, we think that we can gain the most for our investment. We do not jeopardize, we do not risk the good faith of the policies of either the committee or the Department of the Interior or the Bureau of Reclamation in adding this limited section of the third division to the first and second divisions as a managing unit.

We have the advantage now of having eliminated those who do not know how to farm, those who should not have come north to farm in irrigable country, those who were simply looking for the luck of a draw in order to try something they had not tried before, to see if it would work.

As the chairman knows best of all, farming in the kind of land that we have in New Mexico and in Wyoming is quite a different matter than farming in other parts of the country. You face a different kind of thing. We believe that we have shaken this whole thing down to where we have an opportunity to preserve the best, to where we have the expertise and the accumulative experiences that will enable us to make this go.

I want to emphasize the presence of the Governor here, the united front of the delegation here, the total support of the Riverton and Fremont County areas which represent the best of the major consensus that we have worked out. We have eliminated the malcontents and marginal land involved in the project and we have here something that we can support and that is the reason for asking the consideration of this committee again for this project.

I know that when you mention Riverton it is like waving a red flag in some ways. But that does violence to those who have made the major portion of the project a real and proud chapter in irrigation history.