

Senator McGEE. In addition to the rain.

Senator JORDAN. I think he has answered the question. Thank you.

Senator ANDERSON. Are you going to classify all of it as nonirrigable land?

Mr. DOMINY. No, sir; I will give you the exact figure when I testify. There is something over 8,000 acres we consider irrigable land on a sustained basis.

Senator ANDERSON. Why did they not irrigate them?

Mr. DOMINY. They did irrigate them. They were part of the land that was being irrigated.

Senator ANDERSON. Was it all abandoned?

Mr. DOMINY. Not all of the land should have been abandoned.

Senator ANDERSON. I know. Are the 8,000 acres in all of this project irrigated?

Mr. DOMINY. We have been continuing irrigation of the best lands of the third division under lease arrangements with the Midvale farmers having the first opportunity to lease them, as Senator McGee and Senator Hansen have pointed out. So that there has been a demonstration that under proper farm management these lands are irrigable.

Senator ANDERSON. Can you show one record of profit by these farmers in that area?

Mr. DOMINY. I am sure that they could not have continued that lease and not actually end up with a profit at the end of the year.

Senator McGEE. If I may interject, we can also show the protests of some of those in the third division at the time that this was under controversy where they felt that they were making a go of it and they wanted a chance to stay, but the more vocal or influential or whatever it was of them prevailed which took them all in the same direction. There were salvageable areas in some sections of the project and farmers in these areas told a quite different story from that which the others were telling. And this is the part that we believe is salvageable.

Senator ANDERSON. As I recall, there was no protest at any time as to the purchase.

Senator McGEE. Perhaps not on the final purchase that got to be so liberal that it was too good a deal for some of these people to refuse. Therefore, they all got in line in order to collect the price in the sale. I do not think that the extra liberal terms were a part of the Bureau's responsibility, but the Commissioner himself will have to speak to that. I make no claim for that. I make no plea for it. We are trying to start where we are now.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Hansen?

Senator HANSEN. If I may, I would like to ask unanimous consent to have introduced into the record at this point a letter I have received from Keith Blankenship, dated November 21, 1967. And I would like to read it.

Senator McGEE. Is the committee through with me?

Senator HANSEN. I wanted to introduce this letter to support and corroborate the statements you have made.

Senator ANDERSON. Without objection, it will be made part of the record.

Senator HANSEN. I will read it: