

S. 670, if enacted, will reauthorize the Riverton Extension Unit of the Missouri River Basin project and include therein the entire Riverton Federal reclamation project and is similar to my bill, H.R. 3062. I feel that this legislation is not only good but that it will be beneficial to the area involved and to reclamation in general.

There will be many witnesses, led by Wyoming's Governor, the Honorable Stanley Hathaway, appearing before your committee in support of this legislation. These witnesses will go into detail on the merits of the legislation and the need for its enactment.

I have been familiar with the situation on the Midvale and Riverton Third Division projects for some time and I recently had the privilege of again viewing the lands in question, including the present condition of the headgates, canals, and other parts of the irrigation system, in the company of Senator Hansen.

Following the passage of legislation which authorized the Bureau of Reclamation to buy back from the settlers on the third division the land which they owned, the Bureau of Reclamation has leased these lands and has done a fine job in trying to recover as much income as possible from them. It is my feeling, however, that these lands should be returned to private ownership. A great portion of the lands in the third division can be successfully irrigated, and those lands which cannot be so irrigated can be utilized for grazing purposes.

The combining of the Midvale and the third division projects will result in a workable and successful reclamation project. The irrigation structures on the third division are in excellent shape while those on the Midvale project need replacing in many instances and repair in others. I believe that financial assistance should be given to the restoration of the irrigation distribution system on the Midvale project and that the old Riverton Third Division should be combined with Midvale. If this is done through the combination of irrigated farming and livestock grazing, we will have an economically sound and feasible project.

I do hope that your committee will see fit to give S. 670 your approval.

You raised the question, Mr. Chairman, as to the possibility and the probability of the settlers on these lands and those settlers who had operated the Midvale project over the years being successful in the operation of those lands which would be combined with Midvale from the old third division. I believe the record speaks for these individuals.

The Midvale project has been in existence for many years. It dates back to the early 1920's, and through those years that project has had fine leadership. They have not had any lands which have gone bad.

The farms in the project have made money, which, I think, is the same as have other farms throughout the country. They have been successful in their operations, and I think that it is unthinkable that the lands in the third division, which are now in the hands of the Bureau of Reclamation and are being leased, should not be included in the Midvale project and supervised and handled by those very competent individuals who have handled the Midvale project over the years. If this is done, it will not only help the economy of that area and the individuals concerned, but I think it will help the economy of our country, and it will certainly place reclamation in a much better