

**STATEMENT OF ROY PECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WYOMING
NATURAL RESOURCE BOARD, CHEYENNE, WYO.**

Mr. PECK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee. I came up, as you will recall, with Governor Hathway, and we had a two-part statement. I appreciate the opportunity to bring my words of wisdom here, and I hope that you will consider them.

My name is Roy Peck, and I am the executive director of the Wyoming Natural Resource Board. The resource board is charged with three responsibilities in Wyoming State government: industrial development, water resource development, and planning.

Our board appreciates the invitations received from our friends on the Riverton project and Senator Hansen to state some views on the matter before us today, S. 670, the reauthorization bill of the Riverton project, which would place this project under the Missouri River Basin power project, provide for rehabilitation of the first and third divisions of the Riverton Project now operating as the Midvale Irrigation District, and provide for the return of the lands of the third division of the Riverton project to private ownership.

The resource board has had a long and intimate acquaintanceship with the Riverton project. We are in complete sympathy, and support the objectives of S. 670.

At the board's regular meeting on January 20, 1967, it voted its unanimous support to the Midvale Irrigation District in its efforts embodied in S. 670, and authorized that the Board send a representative to Washington to testify if the Midvale group requested one. I am this representative. Our board is comprised of nine members, a bipartisan board from all parts of Wyoming.

The Wyoming Natural Resource Board further offered, and indeed did, assist in arrangements for and conduct a tour of the Riverton project, which Senator Hansen mentioned, last September.

We joined with our Wyoming congressional delegation in support of this tour of the Riverton project. A member of our water division staff and a member of our board participated in the tour of the project September 21, 1967. Among those present for the tour was Mr. Tom Barry of the Budget Bureau staff. Senator Hansen was also present on the tour. We wanted this tour very badly because we wished that as many as possible might see the progress being made on the Riverton project, and at the same time appreciate its problems.

We are not ashamed of this project, or its farmers. We are proud of them and their agricultural achievements.

The Wyoming Natural Resource Board is in the business of providing financial assistance for small water projects in Wyoming. We have a qualified staff, including a geologist and a registered professional engineer, who conduct detailed feasibility studies before recommending small water project loans.

Since this loan program was instituted more than 10 years ago, the Wyoming Natural Resource Board and the Wyoming Farm Loan Board have extended loans of nearly \$2 million for water development projects. I will underline this. This is Wyoming money. This is our own money. The revolving fund is solvent, and from these funds the resource board will soon hire an additional water resource engineer.