

a much cheaper investment for the United States than the expensive dollars needed to solve the problems in our cities.

Perhaps one of the most encouraging aspects of the Riverton Project is the willingness—I could name you many, and I emphasize the “willingness”—of many young people to return to the farm. I can name you many, including the Weber brothers, who have raised some of the finest sugar beets in the country on my own home place.

Wyoming and Congress, needs to consider seriously the problem of agriculture. Much of the great growth in our State is masked by the decline of agriculture, not the least of which has been the depopulation of the third division.

Much of the future of Wyoming is tied to the ability of our farmers to achieve technological change. Modern agricultural technology, as embodied in the rehabilitation features of S. 670, can be available to the farmers of the Riverton project.

Since 1960, Wyoming has lost 12,500 jobs—many of them in agriculture. Since 1960 there has been an outmigration of 20,000 people from Wyoming, too large a percentage of them in agriculture.

I believe that the Midvale farmers present here today, the technical experts at hand and the technical testimony to be presented, will prove that the Congress will be well advised to pass S. 670.

I would like to deviate for a half second to emphasize a couple of things: That these more than 8,800 acres that are being irrigated now on the third division are being successfully irrigated under lease. There has been no lapse in that since the famous buy-out. The Reclamation Bureau has leased to certain farmers in the Midvale area, and they have made a profit, and this will be shown later on. The leasing fees have been adequate to amortize the purchase of it. They have been paying for their water and providing money for the operating and maintenance charges. Therefore, I think that the sale of these lands is practical, because it would permit us rather than leasing, to plan on an integrated operation. It is very difficult to know if you will have a lease, only year by year.

Completion of construction and rehabilitation of structures, improved drainage, reauthorization of the entire project as a unit of the Missouri River Basin project, return of the third division to private ownership, addition of fish and wildlife conservation benefits—this is only a small portion of the contemplated project and requires no money. We are only asking that the land be sold back to private business so that the tax structure will be returned, as against now being a loss to the community. These are the ingredients available in S. 670, which will make the Riverton project a strong part of the agricultural economic base of Wyoming.

Add the final, and most important ingredient: capable farmers willing to do the job. I am willing to place my bet on these “Marvelous Men of Midvale,” and I hope you will be, too.

Thank you.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Jordan.

Senator JORDAN. No questions. Your statement has added substantially to the fund of information we have gathered. I appreciate it.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Hansen.

Senator HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to compliment my longtime friend, Roy Peck. He has had an interesting and varied ca-