

identical to S. 670—and on the basis of four possible alternatives; that is:

- (1) A 10-year agricultural leasing of acquired lands with continued delivery of water;
- (2) Year-to-year agricultural leasing of acquired lands with continued delivery of water;
- (3) Leasing of lands for grazing purposes; and
- (4) Sale of all lands as dry land, with no further irrigation.

This study demonstrated that irrigation under private ownership as proposed by the legislation, would yield greater financial and economic returns to the United States, the State of Wyoming, and the community than any of the four alternatives and that it would permit the highest and best use of the resources of the area.

The Government-owned lands in the third division have been successfully irrigated by farmers in the adjoining Midvale Irrigation District under a leasing program beginning in 1964.

Senator ANDERSON. Of these 8,000 acres, is it possible to irrigate them and to use them?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. Why should part of that land not go to the original farmers?

Mr. DOMINY. Well, for the simple reason that he was the guy who stated that he could not farm it. He sold it out at a distinct advantage under a very favorable legislation which appraised it as to its full production capacity from its original status, even though it had deteriorated sharply through lack of drainage and other things. And those people took advantage of that. And that is the reason that we bought practically all of it, because the legislation was very favorable to the buyer. Certainly, I would not want to give them a permit to come back in and be a failure again. I would rather give the preferences to the ones who have demonstrated that they are capable of farming, but that their units are too small.

Senator ANDERSON. Have you had others in Riverton who have been in trouble, too? Was the original story that these were for returned veterans?

Mr. DOMINY. This is right. This was veterans preference—both the original first and second divisions—for First World War and the third for Second World War.

Senator ANDERSON. You gave the veterans preference at that time. And now you give it to the farmers.

Mr. DOMINY. They are veterans, too, from the First World War, for the most part. When we settled that, they were veterans from the First World War. They had veteran preference, too, when they took the land.

Senator ANDERSON. As I remember it, a great many of them have moved off the farms.

Mr. DOMINY. There were a number of farmers who have lived on the Midvale project who moved off. But in those days Congress did not come along and buy them out. They sold for whatever they could get and left.

Irrigation development, as you well know, is no bed of roses. It is a thorny struggle. Some of them make it and some do not.