

at 160 acres by the individuals, but for the most part they were homesteaded at 80 acres for individuals, or even less.

Senator ANDERSON. They are making a prosperous return on the 80 acres.

Mr. DOMINY. No. There have been adjustments on the land.

Senator ANDERSON. In the acreage?

Mr. DOMINY. And, remember that a man and wife can have 320 acres, even without the class 1 equivalent.

Senator ANDERSON. I do remember that.

Mr. DOMINY. And most of them have managed—those who have stayed there have managed to build up a little larger unit, but it is still far from utopia. They could still improve the economic situation of the Midvale farmer. That is, we could if we could incorporate the third division land with the established farm economy of the first and second divisions—with the competent farmers who have learned to live with the vagaries of Wyoming agriculture.

Senator ANDERSON. Can you show on the record that of the ones who farm, why some do well, and others do not? Or is there not a regulation as to how you sell this land?

Mr. DOMINY. There was in the first instance.

Senator ANDERSON. Is there now?

Mr. DOMINY. We have a special situation here now.

Senator ANDERSON. Is the law that we cannot do that now?

Mr. DOMINY. Mr. Langley can speak to that.

Mr. LANGLEY. We could actually sell these lands under the 1964 act. During hearings on the 1964 act we testified that we would hold these lands for awhile until they demonstrated that they could be successfully farmed.

Mr. DOMINY. Could we sell them as irrigated lands under the act?

Mr. LANGLEY. Yes. We could sell them as irrigated tracts. However, what we are proposing to do is consistent with a number of pieces of legislation. It is consistent with the policy we are following in almost every project in the Bureau where we can strengthen existing units within the framework of whatever regulations apply to a project. We are giving preference to strengthening the existing units before we introduce the new units and new farmers into an area. We are doing this on the Columbia Basin—on the Gila project.

It is consistent with the act of March 31, 1950, where we have irrigable lands on projects, and there we give first preference to the existing farmers to strengthen the units, rather than bringing in more farmers.

Senator ANDERSON. Are there any existing on the area?

Mr. LANGLEY. There are existing farmers on the Riverton area. There are none left in the third division, except one farmer, and he also has a preference—the only farmer who is left in the third division would have a preference, yes.

Mr. DOMINY. The only one that did not sell under the original 1964 act.

Section 1 of S. 670 would reauthorize the entire Riverton project as a unit of the Missouri River Basin project. This would modify the plan