

Senator ANDERSON. Thank you very much.

Our next witness is Mr. Donald White, attorney with the board of commissioners of the Midvale Irrigation District.

STATEMENT OF DONALD WHITE, ATTORNEY, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, MIDVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Chairman, if I may, I will preface my individual remarks with an opening statement covering in a general way the testimony of all of the members who will testify with respect to the panel for the Midvale Irrigation District.

The present legislation (S. 670 and H.R. 3062) seeks to offer a solution to several very difficult problems existing on the Riverton reclamation project. Midvale Irrigation District, as the only contracting agency in existence on the Riverton reclamation project, has recognized that the entire project, from the beginning, should have been under one irrigation district. Unfortunately, when third division was developed, the water users chose to form their own separate water district and Midvale, at this point, concerned itself with the first and second divisions exclusively. Since the act of March 10, 1964 (88-270), third division's problems have become Midvale's problems.

All three members of the board of commissioners of the Midvale Irrigation District and the district manager—and I might add the representative of another water user from Midvale project—will testify in support of this legislation. They speak for all of the water users on the Riverton reclamation project. At the last three annual meetings of the district, the water users have unanimously supported this legislation and have gone on record as endorsing the efforts of the board of commissioners in furthering the passage of this bill.

Midvale has very serious problems of its own in regard to drainage, canal and lateral lining, and silt control. These matters will be discussed in more detail by Mr. Fred Anglen, president of the Midvale board of commissioners. The irrigation distribution system on Midvale is many years older than construction on third division. A serious problem exists today on the Midvale portion of the project with respect to old and deteriorating structures which need immediate replacement or repair. This portion of the requested rehabilitation program for Midvale will be discussed by Mr. Carl Welty, member of the board of commissioners of the Midvale Irrigation District.

Mr. Ed Bogacz, the third member of the board of commissioners of Midvale Irrigation District, will discuss the features of the proposed legislation that have to do with returning the lands on third division to private ownership. Mr. Bogacz has leased a unit on the third division as a supplement to his Midvale farm for the past 3 years and is able to present to this committee first-hand knowledge as to the productivity of the third division, the condition of the third division irrigation distribution system and the general plan for returning these lands to private ownership.

Mr. Roy Reid, manager of the Midvale Irrigation District, will discuss the general operation of the Midvale Irrigation District, the experiences Midvale has had with respect to the operation and maintenance of third division for the past two seasons, the condition of the irrigation distribution system throughout the entire Riverton reclama-