

The city of Riverton suffered serious consequences from the Government buy-out. There was a great deal of adverse publicity about the third division legislation which had a depressing effect on land values over the entire area. The business community immediately lost a large retail market represented by the farm families that left the area. Historically, Riverton has been a farm community and the loss of third division was a severe blow to its economy. The Riverton Chamber of Commerce never endorsed the third division buy-out and has consistently supported the present reauthorization bill from the beginning.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce at this time a letter I have with me from the Riverton Chamber of Commerce, and a letter from the School District No. 32, from the office of County Commissioners of Fremont County. Those would be the three that I would introduce at this time.

Senator HANSEN. Without objection, they will all be received.
(The documents referred to, follow:)

RIVERTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Riverton Wyo.

Re Riverton reclamation project reauthorization (S. 670, H.R. 3062).

MIDVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
Pavillion, Wyo.

GENTLEMEN: The Riverton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to lend its support to the legislation presently in Congress that would reauthorize the Riverton Reclamation Project. The Chamber has unanimously endorsed this legislation by Resolution.

Riverton is located in Fremont County, in west-central Wyoming. The county population is approximately 30,000. Riverton is the largest town in the County with an estimated population of 8500. The City of Riverton is located just south of the Riverton Reclamation Project.

Irrigated farming has been a mainstay of the Riverton economy during all of its sixty-one years. The U.S. Government opened the land for settlement in 1906, laying out the Riverton townsite to serve the needs of the homesteads which were drawn by lots. Those who won a homestead broke the land from the sagebrush. The pattern of development has been repeated over the years as the Midvale Irrigation District portion of the Project came in to being. Many Riverton people remember the excitement of the 1958-50 period when the Veterans of World War II, by the hundreds, applied for a chance at Third Division lands. At the time of this land opening, Midvale lands in Paradise Valley, Lost Wells Butte, Missouri Valley, Buckhorn Flats and the pavillion area had been under irrigation for a number of years. Some of these lands went wet and alkali showed plainly on others, but emerging from the continuing adjustment, came good farms, operated by people with experience and a desire to farm, plus the capital and the know-how to carry out their aspirations.

There were very few trade or service establishments in Riverton when the Project began. Estimates today indicate that there are about 300 business establishments. The Chamber of Commerce boasts of a membership of 197 members from the business community.

Many trades and service establishments in Riverton depend completely upon the agricultural community. Two creameries, four elevators, five farm-implement stores, a sales barn and a packing plant fall within this business category. Practically all other Riverton business establishments depend, to some degree, upon agriculture. Grocery stores, gasoline service stations, dry good stores, appliance stores, automobile and truck dealerships and banking institutions are among the major businesses in the last classification.

Many local people are employed by Government agencies who are directly connected with agriculture and the livestock industries. These agencies would include Farmers Home Administration, University of Wyoming Extension Service, Bu-