

pair and maintenance and weed control had to be continued even though compensating revenues were unavailable from the Third Division area after the buy-out.

These lands have continued to produce crops and pasture livestock for the non-owning lessees. The federal government received \$41,460.00 in 1965; \$46,770.00 in 1966; and \$42,845.00 in 1967 income as lessor of these lands. Fremont County has received nothing while attempting to maintain basic governmental services in the area.

We think the lands should be returned to private ownership and put back on the tax rolls so that they can contribute their fair share in supporting local government.

FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
WALTER V. RHODES, *Chairman*.
W. E. PEARSON.
TOM COLEMAN.

Mr. WHITE. And one other comment I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, would be with respect to the financing of the lands on third division that would be returned to private ownership if this bill were enacted. I have letters from the U.S. Department of the Interior, the American National Bank of Riverton, the First National Bank of Riverton, and a letter from the Farmers Home Administration, from the Riverton office. These letters tend to support local interests in any financing-owner-operators on the third division, if these lands are placed in private ownership.

Senator HANSEN. Mr. White, I assume these letters to which you referred are all expressions of interest in the reactivation of these third division lands, as part of the project; am I right?

Mr. WHITE. That is correct, Mr. Chairman. They are expressions of interest. They are expressions of confidence in the productivity of the area from a financial point of view.

Senator HANSEN. You have called attention in your statement already to the adverse impact that this buy-out by the Government has had on the REA, on the school districts and on the county.

Mr. WHITE. That is correct, and these letters that have been introduced tend to bear on that issue.

Senator HANSEN. They will be received.

(The letters referred to follow:)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION,
Riverton, Wyo., October 3, 1967.

MIDVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
Pavillion, Wyo.

GENTLEMEN: Mr. Edward Bogacz inquired regarding possible financing of the Third Division farm units in event legislation was enacted that would authorize sale of the land for continued irrigation. We contacted the Regional Office to determine what would be the possible Bureau of Reclamation financing. Although this matter has not been discussed with the Washington Office, it is presumed that at least the normal ten-year period of financing would be offered. At the present time, the interest rate on Bureau contracts is six percent per annum on the unpaid balance.

The Bureau of Reclamation would much prefer that financing on land purchase contracts be arranged with established Government or private financing agencies.

Sincerely yours,

ROY C. VAN DREW, *Project Manager*.