

nearly every farm in the Third Division, and it is felt that the land set up to be irrigated under the proposed plan will prove economically feasible to the individual operators.

Sincerely yours,

DuWAYNE R. PFARR,
County Supervisor.

Mr. WHITE. Before authorizing the sale of lands on the Riverton project as encompassed in subsection 4(a) of the bill, I am certain that Congress would want to know what financing would be available to prospective purchasers of these third division lands.

The Bureau of Reclamation has indicated that the normal ten-year period of financing would be available at the prevailing interest rate on Bureau contracts which presently is 6 percent per annum on the unpaid balance.

The American National Bank of Riverton and the First National Bank of Riverton are presently extending operating loans to many of the third division permittees and have expressed their willingness to continue financial assistance to owner-operators, particularly, when the lands are returned to private ownership. The Riverton office of the Farmers Home Administration previously had real estate loans on nearly every farm on third division and would be available for real estate loans to prospective purchasers when these units are offered for sale.

The Midvale Irrigation District has received letters from the Bureau of Reclamation, American National Bank, First National Bank, and the Farmers Home Administration expressing their attitudes with respect to third division financing, which I have put into the record.

Subsection 5(b) gives a priority to resident landowners on the unit who have not sold their lands to the United States under Public Law 88-278—act of March 10, 1964. Those persons entitled to priority may purchase lands to supplement their existing farms.

This provision recognizes the importance of having experienced and qualified operators on the project. It is felt that the resident water users who presently own and actually operate their farms are the ones who will make a success of the balance of the project. They deserve the first opportunity to supplement their present operations with lands made available through this legislation.

Section 6 would bring the bill into line with the relevant portions of the recent Federal Water Project Recreation Act. Inclusion of fish and wildlife conservation and development and recreation as purposes of the Riverton unit would bring this unit more nearly in line with the multiple authorization of the Missouri River Basin project.

The inclusion of fish and wildlife conservation and development would further the long-range general plan of the Wyoming Fish and Game Commission, which now administers 10,539 acres of public lands on the Riverton project and which owns 2,280 acres of land on the project.

The total cost of this fish and wildlife development, when completed, would be approximately \$1.5 million, of which the State Game Commission has already expended approximately \$376,000.

On July 11, 1967, the Hon. Stanley K. Hathaway, Governor of Wyoming, forwarded a letter to the Hon. Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, expressing an intent on behalf of the State