

Let me say that we are expecting a rollcall here momentarily. I say that because I am well aware that there are yet to be heard Mr. Oscar Barnes and Reno Long, and I have a statement that I would like to make also. The last word we had was that around 3:30 this afternoon would likely be the time for a record vote.

To give some balance and perspective to these hearings, I ask that we refer back to the hearing record of the Senate Interior Committee on S. 2305 in the 88th Congress, first session dated October 29 and 30, 1963.

First, let me point out that S. 2305 of the 88th Congress was originally intended and introduced as a total package to reauthorize the entire Riverton project, and to provide for the rehabilitation funds that are now sought in the legislation before this Congress in S. 670.

Unfortunately S. 2305 of the 88th Congress went astray, and the buy-out occurred. The reauthorization and rehabilitation as originally contemplated by S. 2305 never was accomplished, however, and it is this by way of perspective which is pending before us now.

In 1964 the Riverton area was promised by Congress that it would give its attention to such reauthorization and rehabilitation. This it appears to me is the major piece of unfinished business before the Congress.

By way of further perspective, I ask that two editorials from the Riverton Ranger dated September 17, 1963, and October 9, 1963, be brought to the attention of this committee. These editorials reflect the opinion of the Riverton community during the pendency of the Riverton project legislation in 1963 and 1964.

I am hopeful that such a community expression as this will serve to dispel the misimpression that all of the third division was bad or for that matter that all persons considered that abandonment of the entire third division was the only answer.

[From the Riverton (Wyo.) Ranger, Sept. 17, 1963]

Editorially Speaking—

FARM EQUILIBRIUM

While most Riverton project farmers are working hard to complete the harvest of what may be a record 1963 crop, testimony is being taken in Washington concerning the future of farming in this area.

For 10 years, since some of the first dreams of veteran homesteaders went sour, the third division of Riverton project has been under a direct attack by a group of articulate settlers. Their voices have been amplified by the Rocky Mountain News and Scripps-Howard newspapers. Their case against reclamation has been given some credence when constant attention has been focused on errors made by the bureau.

Throughout the campaign to discredit Reclamation, the main group of farmers who make their living farming have remained strangely silent. Individually, men with faith in farming the Reclamation lands in this area have defended farming in this area. Collectively, work has been done toward a sugar factory. Businesses dependent upon farming have continued to expand, and the good farmers continue to make good. But the success stories remain untold.

The winners in the publicity battle are clearly the spokesmen for third division who are trying to prove that the Government misrepresented the lands offered for homesteads, that their economic plights is the fault of the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Government. They believe they are entitled to recompense for the years they spent trying to farm.

Perhaps it is this hope for a payoff that has kept others who believe in farming quiet throughout much of the long battle. The men leading the battle for third