

we minimize the problems that go with farming in a new irrigated area, remote from markets and the services of a city."

The letter said that the Riverton chamber stands with those with faith in the agricultural potential of our whole area. The chamber urged the Congressmen to make sure a way is open for those wanting to leave the farm, to leave.

"But we trust your stand will be on the side of those making the effort to improve the native resources.

"This is a good project, comparing most favorably with many others. We urge your support on the side of continued improvement not abandonment," the letter concluded.

The decision to take the stand came at the board of directors meeting. The letters went out over the signatures of Dr. W. R. Lansing, president, and Bruce McMillan, chairman of the agricultural committee.

Senator HANSEN. Mr. White has referred to a portion of former Senator Simpson's testimony in the Riverton project legislation which he made on October 29, 1963. In the interest of making the record as complete as possible, and to assure that the position of Senator Simpson is not misunderstood, at this time I ask that Senator Simpson's entire statement before this committee be included in the record at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. MILWARD L. SIMPSON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WYOMING

Senator SIMPSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

I might say parenthetically, in light of the observation made by my colleague from Wyoming in respect to the attitude indicated in the questioning by the distinguished Senator from Colorado, Mr. Allott, that there is a method certainly to resolve this thing, and I think we are getting closer to it all the time.

My idea is that the method is that embodied in the bill now before you, together with companion bills that refer to this project. By that I mean that what we need is reauthorization and additional work, with appropriation to cover it, in the places where it is needed.

There certainly must be a consolidation, because some people, some of the settlers on the project, have been duped, and I think I use the word advisedly, by the representations made with respect to the character of the lands, and some of them will be of necessity have to get off. And I think that my statement will disclose the solutions that we have in mind.

Thank you for permitting me to speak to you at this time. I appreciate the opportunity of appearing before this subcommittee to discuss a problem which is so important to an area of Wyoming, the economy of the State, and most important of all, to those farmers who live and work on the lands of the Riverton reclamation project in Fremont, County, Wyo. I am grateful that the subcommittee has been able to set this hearing, at this early date, to consider our problem.

Wyoming Governor Clifford Hansen, in forwarding the report of the Wyoming Natural Resource Board, has made a clear and cogent statement in supporting the provisions of the bill we are discussing today and its companion measure, H.R. 8171.

I concur in the endorsement these provisions have received by the Governor, by the natural resource board, by the Wyoming Development Association headed by the Honorable Marlin T. Kurtz, of Cody, by the Riverton Chamber of Commerce, and by many others.

Incidentally, I might say that Mr. Whitacre, of the staff, advised that the resource board report and the Governor's letter is here.

Senator MOSS. We will place the report in the record after your testimony.

Senator SIMPSON. The Riverton reclamation project has been in and out of Congress since 1917. Today we are once again faced with the decision of determining the future of this project which has been plagued by so many adverse conditions.

In spite of the conditions of a short growing season, alkalinity of the soil, and drainage and seepage problems, the economy of Riverton and of Wyoming is deeply involved with the success of the Riverton reclamation project.