

During a meeting with Commissioner Dominy and Senator Frank Barrett in the summer of 1961, my father and I were told by Mr. Dominy that the old lessee was entitled to a preference right to renewal of his lease. He also stated at that time that the Bureau of Reclamation had no business leasing grazing land, and that a reasonable rental should be charged. He also stated that leases such as ours should be renewable on a negotiated basis. I ask that a letter from Senator Frank Barrett to my father, dated June 19, 1961, be inserted in the hearing record at this point.

Senator HANSEN. Without objection it may be received.

(The letter referred to follows:)

LAW OFFICES, BARRETT & BARRETT,
Lusk, Wyo., June 19, 1961.

Mr. CLAYTON LONG,
Shoshoni, Wyo.

DEAR CLAYTON: I think we had a very satisfactory conference with Floyd Dominy in Casper. I am enclosing a letter which I received from Washington since I got back home but it isn't important. I was pleased with the fact that Dominy understood our problem so well and agreed that the old lessee was entitled to a preference right to renewal of his lease providing he had performed according to the provision of the lease and had taken care of the land itself. I was pleased that he did not agree with those that felt you should get as much rental as possible but rather require only a reasonable rental. He said that the Bureau of Reclamation rules that require that leases be put up to the highest bidder was not intended for grazing leases and in fact the Bureau had no business leasing land for grazing purposes and that the rules should be amended to permit renewal of leases such as yours by negotiation. I was particularly pleased when Mr. Dominy told us on two separate occasions that your lease will be extended for at least another year and that thereafter he would get the regulations changed so that the Bureau could renew grazing leases by negotiation and then he would be in a position to negotiate a reneway some time during the next year. I have been thinking, Clayton, that you should get an assignment of Unit 5 on record so that the extension for one year would apply to Units 1, 3, 4, and 5. Perhaps the assignment should be filed with the office at Riverton. If Perkins has been up to Billings I would be interested in learning what the fellows up there had to say after Floyd Dominy met with them on the 16th of this month. With very best wishes and kindest personal regards to you and Reno, I am,

Sincerely yours,

FRANK BARRETT.

Mr. LONG. If this line of thought was applicable to this situation in 1961, why isn't it today?

To conclude, let me emphasize those point which I respectfully suggest should be considered by the committee during its deliberations on S. 670.

First. I request that the committee seek to determine what lands are presently needed for the Riverton reclamation project. If it is determined that all or most of the 63,000 acres of grazing lands are not now or will not be required for irrigation purposes, then I urge the committee to recommend that these lands be removed from their withdrawn status and returned to the Federal agency empowered to administer public grazing lands.

Second. I respectfully ask the committee to consider whether it is in public interest to devote a large tract of public lands to a semiprivate organization such as the Midvale Irrigation District for rental, when other citizens such as myself stand ready, as I have in the past, to pay a fair rental of at least \$5,000 to the Federal Treasury.