

cium sulfate—0.34%, calcium carbonate—0.15%. Bromine and lithium salts are less than 0.1%.

Those compounds that presently may be extracted profitably from the Great Salt Lake (GSL) brine are sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium sulfate, potassium chloride, lithium chloride, and bromine. Magnesium metal, magnesium compounds, and potassium chloride are expected to be the main items extracted from the GSL brines.

Senator ANDERSON. Do you have a statement?

Mr. O'MEARA. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my statement deals with the authorization for the Office of Saline Water for fiscal year 1972, S. 716. I would like to preface my remarks by saying that we are convinced that continued progress toward competitive desalted water can be achieved. I personally have great faith in the competence and the ability of the American scientific community to solve this very difficult problem.

The progress we anticipate is necessary because of the ever-increasing demands for water. The potential of desalination to provide alternative sources of water supply is just beginning to be realized. Its long-range impact on the water supply of this Nation, particularly in the Southwest and in major metropolitan areas throughout the country will become more important with each passing year.

You have previously received a justification to cover our proposed operations for fiscal year 1972. Before I present a brief highlight summary of the fiscal year 1972 program, I would like to briefly discuss the major activities we have conducted during fiscal year 1971.

One of our most important activities, Mr. Chairman, was authorized by this committee last year. This was for the construction of a module, or a slice, of a VTE/MSF plant. This is a combination of the two leading distillation processes which our studies indicate will provide lower-cost water than either of the processes operating independently. At the time we asked for our authorization, we planned to construct this plant on the property of the San Diego Gas & Electric Co. in Chula Vista, Calif. But we were unable to obtain an extension of our lease with the San Diego Gas & Electric Co. and, therefore, we sought a new location for the plant. We have been able to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Orange County Water District of Orange County, Calif.

Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, I am delighted with this new partnership arrangement. I would like to acknowledge that the chairman of the Orange County Water District is present at the hearing this morning, Mr. Henry Segerstrom.

The Orange County Water District is an aggressive and enlightened water management organization. They are responsible to provide water in one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. It has a potential population increase in excess of 10 percent per year. This population is expected to reach 2 million people by 1980, and the total water requirement by that time is expected to be 500,000 acre-feet annually.

The chief sources of water for the district are ground water basin and importations from the Colorado River through the metropolitan water district system. They rely very heavily on ground water in the area and in order to protect their ground water sources, they are creating an underground fresh water barrier between their ground water aquifer and the ocean. In order to build up this barrier, they are planning to construct a sewage reclamation plant. They will take