

sheds. I do not think you will ever put \$100 an acre water on the land anyplace.

Mr. O'MEARA. Senator, there is one program in which we are beginning to engage with the Bureau of Reclamation to study at the value of high quality water in irrigation. Even though it is higher cost, we feel that with desalted water, that better crops can be obtained if better irrigation practices are developed. We are only beginning to study this application, but we know of operations in Israel and other places where they have been able to develop irrigation practices and use water far more expensive than we ever thought of using in this country, and they are doing it economically. It is a difficult question to comment on. I am not saying that we are going to make the deserts bloom. We have a lot of work ahead of us in order to accomplish this objective. We are not trying to hold out false hope, but we are heading in that direction.

Senator JORDAN. I will turn it over to Senator Fannin. He talked about water costs that his irrigation district found almost prohibitive of \$3 a foot.

Senator FANNIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We, of course, have the farmers complaining about water where they are using 4 or 5 acre-feet of water for crops in some of these areas. But of course, in the Imperial Valley, they do feel that they should have very inexpensive water and \$3 an acre-foot is considered at least not cheap water by them. We know in the State of Arizona, if we can get supplemental water for \$15 to \$25 an acre-foot, many of the farmers would, in some instances, save a crop because it is the additional water that is very important. If they have 3 acre-feet of water at, say, \$10 an acre-foot and then they have to supplement it with the additional acre-foot of water to save a crop, it is worth most any price. I realize that.

What I am concerned about is that since 1965, we have been talking about this plant, this large plant, a plant of great magnitude. At that time, there was considerable publicity on water conservation programs that industry was very active in. I recall, maybe it was brought to my attention more forcefully because they had this symposium in Washington, D.C. But we hear very little about this from industry compared to that time. Do you feel that the industrial concerns that were involved at that time are going forward with their programs, or do they become disappointed and drop them, or what has happened?

Mr. O'MEARA. There is no question about the fact that industries are going forward with their programs, Senator. The market for desalting equipment does not exist in the United States today. We foresee that developing in the coming decade. And there will be a market for their technology at that time. But at the present time, the market is developing quite rapidly in some overseas areas, particularly in the Mediterranean Basin, which includes the Middle East, and in the Caribbean.

Senator FANNIN. When you go across the Middle East you see the product of the program they have adopted and we have seen some of these programs. Where you are using water in limited amounts for crops, I can understand it. But when you are talking about \$100 an acre-foot water, you are limiting yourself considerably, especially