

where they might just cut something I would suggest that this would have a relatively low priority in my opinion.

Mr. HARSHA. I would like to comment on the fact that Mr. Wright comes from a great oil producing State.

Mr. PIKE. I was aware of this.

Mr. HARSHA. Most of the people are interested in the production. Their economic welfare depends upon the production of oil and in that regard, Mr. Wright has been interested in it. I do not know of any improper association on his part.

Mr. PIKE. Absolutely not and believe me I would not want to leave that connotation at all. I just did not even want to mention the word "oil" and that is all.

Mr. WRIGHT. I think the gentleman from South Dakota has entered the hearing room, Congressman Ben Reifel, who has come over to appear in behalf of the Missouri River project.

MISSOURI RIVER NAVIGATION, SOUTH DAKOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA

STATEMENT OF HON. BEN REIFEL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA; ACCOMPANIED BY HON. CHAN GURNEY, FORMER U.S. SENATOR, AND STATE SENATOR A. J. RHIAN

Mr. REIFEL. Mr. Chairman, I have with me former Senator Chan Gurney who will submit his statement and make some brief comments in regard to our project. He is the most informed about the subject; and Hap Rhian will submit the Governor's statement for the record.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Rhian, we will be pleased to have your statement.

Mr. RHIAN. Inasmuch as Senator Gurney is fully familiar with this and can summarize more effectively than I will be able to because he has appeared before the Senate committee in this regard, I will defer to him.

I do have a statement for the record from Gov. Nils A. Boe.

Mr. WRIGHT. Without objection, the Governor's statement will be put into the record at this point.

(The prepared statement of Gov. Nils A. Boe follows:)

STATEMENT OF NILS A. BOE, GOVERNOR, STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

EXTENSION OF MISSOURI RIVER STABILIZATION AND NAVIGATION

I greatly appreciate the courtesy which has been extended to me of allowing my representative, Senator A. J. Rhian, to present my statement and testimony this morning. My schedule of commitments, which could not be altered, prevent me from having the opportunity to appear before you in connection with this most important matter.

I am sure that you gentlemen are generally familiar with the history of the development and construction of the four main stem dams upon the Missouri River in the state of South Dakota.

In the minds of many men and women of the Missouri River Basin States, some of whom are no longer with us, there was envisioned a dream to harness and utilize to the fullest extent the waters of the mighty Missouri River. The purpose and use for these waters in the minds of these men and women were diverse and manifold.

The primary objective was that of flood control; then, next in order of importance, navigation on the Missouri River up to the Gavins Point regulating