

Committees Hear Project Testimony

Supporters of the North Loup (Calamus) irrigation project presented testimony April 5 before the U.S. Congressional appropriations subcommittees urging \$7 million in construction funding for the 1978 fiscal year.

Project opponents were heard by the same committees the previous week. They contended the project is environmentally and economically unsound.

According to figures supplied by the Bureau of Reclamation the project will cost between \$100 million and \$126 million and will irrigate about 53,000 acres in Valley, Greeley, Howard, Merrick, and Nance counties.

The project, authorized in 1972, has a cost-benefit ratio of 1 to 1.9 according to the Bureau of Reclamation. Construction started on a road to the site of what will be the Calamus reservoir and dam, near Burwell, is 70 per cent completed. The dam will

lished that end and added waters to the North Loup River "are not presently being utilized to the extent they could be with the continued funding of the North Loup project."

Shaughnessy emphasized the importance of irrigation in Central Nebraska and the fears of many in the area concerning the decline of underground water levels.

He observed that "We have taken our fuel supplies for granted over the years. In my opinion the American public takes our food supplies for granted as well. Unless we adequately provide for our food supply we may find ourselves in a similar dilemma as we faced in our recent fuel crisis."

The St. Paul lawyer mentioned benefits of the nearby Farwell irrigation project which relies on the Sherman Dam, in Sherman County, for its water supply. He

who, back the project. State Natural Resources Commission Executive Secretary Dayle Williamson read a statement of support on behalf of Nebraska Governor J. James Exon.

Exon had earlier appealed to have project funds restored when they appeared to have been cut off by President Jimmy Carter last month.

However, opponents organized under the banner of Farmers and Ranchers to Save the Loup and Calamus Rivers contended in their testimony that local sentiment is shifting away from the project as people are becoming more aware of the facts involved in its construction, the lack of benefits, and an alleged tax burden.

Lawyers Bob Stowell of Ord and Virgil Haggart Jr. of Omaha claimed they represented "more than 200 farmers and ranchers"



Switzer Awarded Music Scholarship

Jamie Switzer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Rathbone, of Ord, was awarded a Music Scholarship to Kearney State College Tuesday, April 5. Switzer won the scholarship in an audition held at Kearney State April 2. The

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Countyads Have A Light Agenda

Valley County Supervisors had a light agenda Tuesday when they met in their courthouse. Most of their time spent listening to miscellaneous matters, including county bids, roads, a weed school, anti recession funds scheduling.

Countyorney Bob Stowell told counadads about the last item. Aiding to Stowell the county until May 22 to spend over \$1, in federally supplied anti region funds. County Clerk Tha Dulitz told the Quiz

Ed Board Ponders On Utility Repairs

School board members got a first-hand report on repairs and renovations needed on the heating and cooling system in both Ord High and Elementary schools during their Monday night meeting at Ord High. Jim Drake

summer while school is dismissed. Speech Therapist

Board members approved hiring a combination speech therapist and special education teacher for the coming school

qualifying him as a mortician. Merrill Mason said Jessie Gregory suggested a shelterbelt of cedars, pines, or other trees be placed on the north side of the grade school. There was discussion but no action was