

STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE

IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR GROVE RESERVOIR

JUNE 30, 1977

MR. PRESIDENT, I WANT TO URGE MY COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE TO GIVE CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR GROVE RESERVOIR, TO BE LOCATED NEAR TOPEKA, KANSAS. WHEN QUESTIONS WERE RAISED EARLIER THIS YEAR ABOUT THE ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROJECT, I CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE VARIOUS FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT. SINCE THAT TIME, I HAVE FULLY SUPPORTED INITIATION OF CONSTRUCTION OF GROVE RESERVOIR AND HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT AMONG MANY AREA OFFICIALS AND RESIDENTS.

THE CONSERVATION OF WATER AND LAND RESOURCES IN THE STATE OF KANSAS, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FLOOD CONTROL MEASURES, HAVE LONG BEEN MATTERS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF MY STATE. WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE SEEN TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THESE AREAS IN THE PAST. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED COOPERATION, AND FURTHER RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

VARIABLE EXTREMES OF WEATHER CONDITIONS MAKE ADEQUATE PREPARATION NECESSARY TO BOTH THE LIVES AND LIVLIHOODS OF OUR RESIDENTS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EFFORTS CONTINUE TOWARD INSURING AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF WATER IN THE MIDWEST FOR BOTH PRIVATE AND INDUSTRIAL USE. SIGNIFICANT STRIDES HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE IN THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF STATE RESERVOIRS AND IRRIGATION UNITS IN KANSAS. IN AN AREA WHICH EXPERIENCES SEVERE DROUGHTS AND HEAVY USAGE OF NATURAL WATER RESOURCES, SUCH PROJECTS HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES TO BE OF IMMEASURABLE AID AT PRESENT AND VALUABLE INSURANCE FOR THE FUTURE. AS INDUCEMENTS TO GREATER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND AS METHODS FOR PRESERVING OUR PRECIOUS NATURAL RESOURCES, THESE PROJECTS ARE, WITHOUT QUESTION, SOUND INVESTMENTS FOR FEDERAL DOLLARS. IN ADDITION, IMPLEMENTATION OF FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS PROMISE TO SAVE THE GOVERNMENT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS IN THE FUTURE.

-2-

A QUALITY WATER SUPPLY

MY SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GROVE RESERVOIR FOLLOWS A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND A REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD IN THE AREA LAST FALL AND EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE PROJECT HAS MY SUPPORT BECAUSE IT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE FLOOD CONTROL PLAN FOR THE TOPEKA AREA AND THE KANSAS RIVER BASIN. THE PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE FLOOD PROTECTION FOR MORE THAN 3,000 ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND, WITH SUPPLEMENTAL PROTECTION FOR 626,000 AGRICULTURAL ACRES AND 39,000 URBAN ACRES.

OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE IS THE FACT THAT IT IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF WATER FOR THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS IN THE COMING YEARS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BY THE YEAR 2000, THE CITY OF TOPEKA WILL REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL 20 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER PER DAY TO MEET ITS NEEDS. GROVE RESERVOIR WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO SUPPLY THIS FUTURE NEED WITH A QUALITY WATER SUPPLY. THE KANSAS WATER RESOURCES BOARD HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH SALINE CONTENT IN EXISTING WATER SOURCES FOR THE CITY, AND THEY FORESEE TREATMENT AS WELL AS SUPPLY PROBLEMS FOR THE CITY OF TOPEKA WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE YEAR 2000. I FEEL THESE FACTORS ARGUE FAVORABLY IN SUPPORT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GROVE RESERVOIR PROJECT.

COUNTERING ADMINISTRATION OBJECTIONS

MR. PRESIDENT, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE BENEFIT-COST RATIO FOR GROVE RESERVOIR AT THE AUTHORIZED RATE PERSCRIBED BY FEDERAL LAW IS 1.11 TO 1, ACCORDING TO THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT DATED MARCH 15, 1977. THE VARIANCE BETWEEN THE BENEFIT-COST RATIO PUBLISHED BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE ONE PROMULGATED BY THE ADMINISTRATION CAN BE EXPLAINED IN TERMS OF CHANGES IN PHILOSOPHY AND PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN DETERMINING SUCH RATIOS. HOWEVER, THE ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE A NEW EVALUATION TECHNIQUE AT THIS LATE DATE RAISES A QUESTION OF WHETHER IT IS REALISTIC TO EVALUATE A PROJECT, REEVALUATE THE PROJECT, AND THEN REEVALUATE THE REEVALUATION AD INFINITUM. IT IS NECESSARY THAT REEVALUATIONS BE TERMINATED AT SOME DEFINE POINT, AND HISTORICALLY THIS POINT HAS BEEN AT THE INITIATION OF PROJECT FUNDING AND THE BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY.

-3-

QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED ABOUT THE NEED FOR A NEW WATER SUPPLY TO THE TOPEKA AREA. THE QUALITY OF THE PRESENT SUPPLY, COMING FROM SERVICE FLOWS IN THE KANSAS RIVER, IS FAR FROM IDEAL. A MAJOR PROBLEM IS THE HIGH CHLORIDE CONTENT WHICH OCCURS MOST OF THE TIME. CHLORIDES CANNOT BE EASILY REMOVED FROM WATER BY NORMAL TREATMENT PROCESSES; REMOVAL REQUIRES THE USE OF EXPENSIVE DESALTING TREATMENT PROCESSES. AFTER INVESTIGATING A NUMBER OF OPTIONS FOR FUTURE SUPPLY, THE CITY OF TOPEKA CONCLUDED THAT THE MOST DESIRABLE AND MOST ECONOMICAL OF THOSE OPTIONS WOULD BE THE GROVE LAKE PROJECT. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CITY OF TOPEKA HAS BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING A LONG TERM WATER CONTRACT WITH THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO ENSURE REPAYMENT FOR LOCAL INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL USE. WITH RESPECT TO OBJECTIONS RAISED REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN THAT ANY PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF AN AREA. WHETHER A PROJECT IS A HIGHWAY, SCHOOL, OR A RESERVOIR, IT IS IMPORTANT TO QUANTITATIVELY EVALUATE THE IMPACT. A PROPER BALANCE NEEDS TO BE STRUCK BETWEEN THE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS AND THE IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF A PROJECT. OTHERWISE, THIS NATION'S ENTIRE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM FROM WASTE TREATMENT PLANTS TO WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS MAY GRIND TO A HALT. THE FISH AND WILD LIFE SERVICE IN KANSAS IS PRESENTLY REVIEWING ANTICIPATED CONDITIONS AT GROVE AND WILL PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION MEASURES TO OFFSET THE LOSS OF UPLAND HABITAT.

LOCAL SUPPORT

MR. PRESIDENT, THE GROVE RESERVOIR PROJECT IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF KANSAS, THE HONORABLE ROBERT F. BENNETT. I WILL ASK THAT A COPY OF THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER TO THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS BE PRINTED IN THE RECORD AT THE CONCLUSION OF MY REMARKS.

-4-

IN ADDITION, THE PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY THE KANSAS WATER RESOURCES BOARD, THE MISSOURI-ARKANSAS RIVER FLOOD CONTROL ASSOCIATION, AND NUMEROUS OTHERS IN THE AREA.

I HAVE JUST THIS MORNING RECEIVED TELEGRAMS FROM THE TOPEKA FLOOD CONTROL AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, THE TOPEKA BOARD OF REALTORS, RURAL WATER DISTRICT #5 IN JOHNSON COUNTY, MEMBERS OF THE TOPEKA CITY COMMISSION, THE TOPEKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND OTHERS URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR GROVE RESERVOIR. IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT WE WILL NOT DISAPPOINT THESE HOPES, AND SHORT CHANGE FUTURE GENERATIONS WHICH WILL DEPEND SO HEAVILY UPON WATER RESOURCES WHICH WE CONSTRUCT TODAY.

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