REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE
ARKANSAS BASIN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1970

IT IS A PLEASURE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARKANSAS BASIN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION. YOUR ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A PROJECT WHICH PROMISES TO DRAMATICALLY STIMULATE THE ECONOMY AND GROWTH OF THIS REGION.

AS YOU KNOW, THE ARKANSAS RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES FLOW THROUGH THOSE COUNTIES OF OKLAHOMA, ARKANSAS, AND KANSAS WHICH COMPROMISE THE BULK OF THE COUNTIES IN THE OZARKS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. I WOULD GUESS THAT THE ABDA AND THE OZARKS COMMISSION ARE TWO ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS AREA THAT WILL AFFECT THE REGION'S FUTURE. THE ABDA HAS, THROUGHOUT ITS EXISTENCE, FOSTERED MULTISTATE PLANNING AND COOPERATION. IT IS NATURAL THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE SOUGHT THE COOPERATION OF MANY JURISDICTIONS AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RIVER FLOWING THROUGH SEVERAL STATES REQUIRES REGIONAL PLANNING.

INCREASINGLY, WE RECOGNIZE THE SYSTEMIC NATURE OF OUR PROBLEMS AND THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS -- STRIKING AT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM RATHER THAN MINISTERING TO A SYMPTOM OR MANIFESTATION. THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ARKANSAS, KANSAS, Colorado AND OKLAHOMA ARE CLOSELY RELATED. KANSAS INDUSTRY MAY DEPEND UPON SKILLED LABOR OBTAINED FROM OKLAHOMA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS. ARKANSAS FOOD PROCESSORS MAY RELY ON KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION. ALL OF THESE INDUSTRIES WILL BE DRAWN TOGETHER BY A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. IT IS ON THE BASIS OF THIS REGIONAL APPROACH THAT WE HOPE TO REVERSE POPULATION MIGRATIONS TO OUR ALREADY OVERCROWDED URBAN CENTERS.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

ONE AREA WHICH IS OF INCREASING CONCERN AND WILL REQUIRE ACTION AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS THAT OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION. THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE FIRM AND BOLD COMMITMENT TO TAKE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AGAINST INCREASED POLLUTION

OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND REPAIR OF THE DAMAGE WHICH HAS BEEN DONE. I AM PRIVILEGED TO [redacted] ON THE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION. THIS IS WHERE THE "ACTION" WILL BE IN THE DECADE OF THE '70'S.

ARKANSAS RIVER DEVELOPMENT

POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN A RIVER BASIN PARTICULARLY REQUIRE THE COOPERATION OF STATE AND LOCAL JURISDICTION OF THE KIND WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE ABDA's WORK IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NAVIGATION ON THE ARKANSAS RIVER. BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, WE SHOULD KNOW [redacted] NAVIGATION IS FEASIBLE ON THE ARKANSAS AS FAR NORTH AS TULSA. THE PLAN FOR THE WHOLE BASIN, WITH ALL PROJECTED RESERVOIRS AND DAMS, IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1972.

THIS DEVELOPMENT IS IN ITSELF A SYSTEM. YOU HAVE TAKEN A FLOWING RIVER WHICH CARRIED A VARIETY OF WATER AND SEDIMENTATION LEVELS AND CONSTRUCTED THE MECHANISMS TO CONTROL THAT FLOW. AT THE SAME TIME, A SHIPPING CHANNEL HAS BEEN DEVELOPED -- A TRANSPORTATION LINK WHICH IS VITAL TO COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH. THE SYSTEM OF DAMS AND RESERVOIRS WAS BUILT WITH AN EYE TO PROVIDING AN ADDED STIMULUS TO INDUSTRIAL GROWTH. THE PLANS INCLUDED HYDRO-ELECTRIC FACILITIES. IN EFFECT, YOU HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THE UTILIZATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE RIVER. THAT WAS, AND IS, THE GOAL OF YOUR ORGANIZATION, AND YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENT.

CONSEQUENCES OF DEVELOPMENT

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION YOU HAVE PUT IN MOTION MUST NOW BE YOUR CONCERN.

AS INDUSTRY TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE INEXPENSIVE TRANSPORTATION, OPEN SPACES, POWER DEVELOPMENT, AND GENERALLY DESIRABLE FEATURES OF THE ARKANSAS BASIN, THE RESOURCES OF THE BASIN WILL BE THREATENED AS NEVER BEFORE. INCREASED POPULATION AND INDUSTRY WILL REQUIRE EXPANDED USE OF THE RIVER. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE ABDA NOT ONLY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE ABOUT THE THREAT WHICH DEVELOPMENT POSES, BUT ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE EFFECTIVELY TO PROTECT THE RESOURCES WHICH THIS ASSOCIATION HAS LABORED TO DEVELOP.

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

[redacted] OKLAHOMA AND ARKANSAS WATER QUALITY STANDARDS ARE QUITE STRINGENT WITH SOUND PRINCIPLES OF NONDEGRADATION AND 1972 EXPECTED COMPLIANCE DATES. MY OWN STATE OF KANSAS HAS SOME PROBLEMS AS FAR AS THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ADMINISTRATION IS CONCERNED WITH ITS COMPLIANCE DATES. HOWEVER, THE DIFFERENCES DO NOT ARISE OVER THE NEED FOR WATER QUALITY STANDARDS. IT APPEARS TO BE A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES.

THERE ARE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO FEEL THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF SECONDARY SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES IN SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS IS AN INEFFICIENT EXPENDITURE OF LIMITED PUBLIC RESOURCES. BUT THE STATES OF THE REGION HAVE MANIFESTED IN GENERAL A WILLINGNESS TO MOVE EFFECTIVELY AGAINST WATER POLLUTION. INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT ALIKE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM AND THE MOST EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS. THE RAW TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

OF RESTORING THE RIVER TO A PURER STATE THROUGH DESALINATION (DESALTING) AND UPGRADING OF MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES ARE GREAT AND WILL REQUIRE THE EXPANDED COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES AND ENERGY.

THERMAL POLLUTION

THE RIVER IS GOING TO BEAR NEW BURDENS, HOWEVER. AND AS I HAVE SAID, MANY OF THE NEW AND INCREASED USES TO WHICH THE WATER WILL BE PUT DERIVE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR EFFORTS.

UNDER H. R. 4148, [redacted] YESTERDAY BY A HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, NEW INDUSTRY WILL HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS OF THE STATES. BOTH HOUSES PASSED VERSIONS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE COMPLIANCE PRIOR TO THE ISSUING OF A FEDERAL LICENSE, PERMIT OR LEASE. THE STATES OF THE BASIN WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE OUGHT TO BE LOOKING TO STANDARDS FOR THERMAL POLLUTION. AS AN EXAMPLE, OF THE SYSTEMIC NATURE OF THE PROBLEM OF POLLUTION AND YOUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP

THE RIVER BASIN, LET US CONSIDER THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THERMAL POLLUTION. BY CONSTRUCTING A DAM TO CONTROL THE FLOW OF THE RIVER, AND MAKING NAVIGATION POSSIBLE, YOU HAVE ATTRACTED INDUSTRY WITH TREMENDOUS POWER REQUIREMENTS; POWER GENERATION PLANTS MUST BE BUILT WHICH USE THE WATER OF THE RESERVOIRS TO COOL THEIR REACTORS; WITHOUT ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS, THIS COOLING PROCESS WILL HEAT UP THE RESERVOIRS TO A POINT WHERE FISH CANNOT LIVE; INATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM MAY RESULT IN THE LOSS OF RECREATIONAL AREAS FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE EMPLOYEES IN THE INDUSTRY AND THE POWER PLANTS.

OPPORTUNITIES

WHILE NUCLEAR POWER MAY CREATE A PROBLEM, IT ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY. IN KANSAS, THE KANSAS GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY HAS PROPOSED BUILDING A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT FOR JOHN REDMOND RESERVOIR. THE KANSAS WATER RESOURCES BOARD IS WORKING WITH THE COMPANY ON THE DEVEL-

OPMENT OF A RECYCLING SYSTEM THAT WOULD NOT ONLY COOL THE WATER, BUT ENHANCE THE USE OF THE RESERVOIR DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

THESE ARE THE BENEFITS AND COSTS RESULTING FROM EXPANSION AND PROGRESS. THE TASK OF THE WATER QUALITY AGENCIES AND WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS IS TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF WATER RESOURCES FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE. YOU HERE IN THE ARKANSAS BASIN HAVE A GOOD START TOWARD FINDING THE BALANCE BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION. BUT YOU ARE ENTERING THE DIFFICULT STAGES. NOW POPULATION IS NOT DENSE AND THE DEMANDS ON THE RIVER ARE NOT GREAT.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Colorado

THERE ARE SIGNS OF REAL DANGER RIGHT NOW IN OKLAHOMA, ARKANSAS, AND ALAS, KANSAS. I AM TOLD THAT PROBLEMS HAVE DEVELOPED WITH OLD OIL WELLS LEAKING INTO RESERVOIRS. IN KANSAS, A GAS LEAK HAS SURFACED IN THE BED OF CHENEY RESERVOIR WHICH, ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT HARMED THE FISH, POINTS OUT THE NEED FOR STRICT STANDARDS THAT MUST BE ENFORCED.

PLANT NUTRIENTS

CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO NUTRIENT LEVELS IN RESERVOIRS. PLANT NUTRIENTS ARE NORMAL CONSTITUENTS OF FERTILE SOILS. THEY ARE VITAL IN THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND FIBER. HOWEVER, THE MOVEMENT OF THE FERTILIZERS AND SOIL AMENDMENTS INTO STREAMS, LAKES AND RESERVOIRS, ENABLES THE GROWTH OF UNWANTED ALGAE AND WATER WEEDS. AGRICULTURAL RUN-OFF AND MUNICIPAL INDUSTRIAL SEWAGE CAN NO LONGER BE FLUSHED DOWN THE RIVER AND DILUTED. INSTEAD, THEY COLLECT IN THE RESERVOIRS AND CREATE A POTENTIAL FOR UNDESIRABLE GROWTHS. ALTHOUGH THIS HAS NOT BECOME A PROBLEM BECAUSE THE RESERVOIRS ARE YOUNG AND CAN BE FLUSHED PERIODICALLY, A THREAT CAN BE ANTICIPATED IN THE FUTURE.

MINERAL CONCENTRATION

THE HIGH CONCENTRATION OF MINERALS -- SALT AND GYPSUM -- IN THE ARKANSAS RIVER HAS CREATED A UNIQUE PROBLEM. WHILE THE RIVER HAS NOT BEEN USED AS A PRIME SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY OR IRRIGATION, PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY ON THE CIMMARON RIVER AND SALT FORK RIVER TO CURTAIL THE FLOW OF SALT WATER INTO THE ARKANSAS RIVER. THESE STUDIES ARE [redacted] IMPORTANT, FOR SALINE POLLUTION FROM THE UPPER REACHES OF THE BASIN IS NOT GOING TO BE DISTRIBUTED AND DILUTED IN THE OLD PATTERNS OF THE FREE-FLOWING RIVER. DAMS AND RESERVOIRS CHANGE THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH POLLUTANTS FROM EVEN MIXING TO SETTLING OUT, -- STRATIFICATION AND CONCENTRATION.

DREDGED SPOIL

A GREAT NAVIGATION CHANNEL HAS BEEN DEVELOPED. IT WILL HAVE TO BE DREDGED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A HIGH CARRYING PERFORMANCE. THE STATES MUST ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR THE DUMPING OF DREDGED SPOIL ON LAND IN AREAS WHICH WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE POLLUTION OF THE WATERWAY.

FEEDLOT RUN-OFF

ANIMAL PROCESSING IS A GROWTH INDUSTRY IN THIS AREA. FEEDLOTS IN KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY WIDESPREAD. THE DANGER OF THEIR WASTE FOULING THE RIVER WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE UNLESS ENERGETIC ACTION IS TAKEN. A SINGLE 10,000-HEAD FEEDLOT PRODUCES ABOUT 260 TONS OF MANURE A DAY. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY INDUSTRIES PRODUCE TEN TIMES AS MUCH WASTE AS THAT OF THE SEWAGE PRODUCED BY THE HUMAN POPULATION. NOT LONG AGO, RUN-OFF FROM A FEEDLOT ON THE COTTONWOOD RIVER IN KANSAS PRODUCED A FISH KILL, BUT NOW MANURE IS BEING REMOVED AND PONDS OR LAKES ARE BEING BUILT TO INTERCEPT OVERFLOW FROM THE FEEDLOTS.

AS DIFFICULT AS IT IS TO PINPOINT THE SOURCES OF THIS AND OTHER TYPES OF POLLUTION, THE STANDARDS GOVERNING THEM MUST BE ENFORCED. THIS WILL REQUIRE A COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES FOR STAFF AT THE STATE AND LOCAL

LEVELS. IT WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AS THE PLANS YOU HAVE ENGINEERED TAKE EFFECT THAT THERE IS LEADERSHIP GIVEN TO PROTECT THE RESOURCE YOU HAVE JUST BEGUN TO TAP. YOUR ASSOCIATION IS IN AN IDEAL POSITION TO PROVIDE THAT LEADERSHIP. I HOPE YOU WILL GRASP THAT OPPORTUNITY AS VIGOROUSLY AS YOU HAVE THE MULTI-PURPOSE DEVELOPMENT PLAN. THE SUSTAINED LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARKANSAS BASIN REQUIRES SUCH COMMITMENT FROM YOU.

John M. -- Saint Simmons - Henry B.
John Lee H. -- Burgh Star
Henry Cook -
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