

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES
FOR
GLEN ELDER DAM AND RESERVOIR
Beloit, Kansas
October 4, 1964

Mr. Chairman, Senator Carlson, Commissioner Dominy, distinguished guests, and fellow Kansans:

It is one of the delights afforded to a Member of Congress to participate in an occasion such as this in his own State, District, and so near to his home community. For this opportunity, I extend my thanks to all of the citizens of this area who worked so effectively to plan and develop the program being launched this week end.

It is, indeed, a tremendously significant milestone in the striving of the people of the Solomon River Valley to assure a better life for themselves and future generations. It marks the culmination of one phase of activity, in that we shall soon see the rewards for days, months, and years of ceaseless and oftentimes frustrating effort to resolve the preliminaries essential to the start of a project as large and complex as the Glen Elder Unit. On the other hand, it signifies the start of a new economic era for the citizens of Mitchell, Cloud, Ottawa, and indirectly all of the other counties in Kansas, right down to the mouth of the Kaw.

The State of Kansas has seen the development of many water projects. Some larger and more expensive than Glen Elder Dam and some smaller.

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Some may have touched the lives of more Kansans than will this Project, but none will affect or benefit so many people in so many different ways. Certainly, ample justification in the public interest will be realized many times over from flood control alone. I am told by the engineers of the State and Federal Governments that there cannot be effective flood protection to the large downstream metropolitan areas without Glen Elder Dam and certainly Solomon Valley residents need not be told what it will mean to them from this standpoint.

Additionally, Glen Elder Dam is being constructed to provide for the conservation of water for any use to which it may ultimately be dedicated. This comports with the long-standing and unquestionably wise position of our State Water Resources Board that no more will Kansas dedicate its land resources to storage impoundments that do not conserve water for the future use of our farms, homes, and industries. Glen Elder Dam will serve this role from the very beginning, as contracts are already in force to provide for municipal service to the City of Beloit. The long-range, high-quality water supply assured to the city by this arrangement should prove to be an effective attraction to industries seeking just such incentives to central-ize or establish plants in our midwestern region.

Quite aside from these tangible economic effects that can be so reasonably predicted, many of you anticipate eagerly the so-called by-product or corollary effects of Glen Elder Dam and Lake Waconda. It will be from this standpoint that many will realize the greatest reward. Fishing, boating, picnicking, camping and allied outdoor recreation opportunities will

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be present as Americans continue to move toward the outdoors to spend their leisure time. This is not surprising, and applies no less to our distinctive character as Kansans who from every observation and statistic can be expected to make the most of the land and water areas of the Glen Elder Unit set aside for public use and enjoyment.

These, then, are the benefits--to which we may look forward. In so looking forward, we must be mindful of the past; partly to profit from our experience and thus apply it to our next objective, and to redress any grievance or damage, whether real or fanciful, resulting from efforts to attain our present state.

The road bringing this project into being has been long. Progress has been sporadic and intermittent, and there have been genuine differences of opinion on the details. One thing is certain, however; the game has not been dull and at times I felt like "ham" in a sandwich.

In my brief time, I must acknowledge those who in the utmost sincerity disagreed, perhaps not with the concept of the project, but with some detailed phase of it. I also realize there are some who are still apprehensive of pending adjustments and dislocations that accompany undertakings of this character and assure you again of my every effort to settle policy differences amicably and justly. These fears are real and meaningful, particularly to those whose life is the land and while it is said transitions of this nature usually are far worse to contemplate than to endure, and I sincerely trust that in time those who, for reasons of their own, opposed the project may ultimately agree that the chosen course

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was a wise -- if not a perfect one -- and participate fully in its tangible and intangible benefits.

It has been a great privilege to work with Senator Carlson, long interested in this project, Senator Pearson, who has been most helpful, and all other members of the Kansas delegation, and Bureau of Reclamation personnel in helping make this day possible. I supported this project after some modifications were made, for I believe in and support programs where the demonstrable benefits exceed the costs.

I congratulate you for a job well begun and frankly hope to be around to express my gratitude for a job well done. Thank you.

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