

WILSON DAM AND RESERVOIR DEDICATION
Wilson, Kansas
Saturday, June 10, 1967, 2:00 p.m.
Remarks of Congressman Bob Dole

THANK YOU, MR. ENSLEY.

GOVERNOR DOCKING, GENERAL SEEDLOCK, COLONEL KRATZ, MR. BUZICK,
MR. O'LEARY, REVEREND CLERGY, MEMBERS OF THE DEDICATION COMMITTEE, AND
FRIENDS.

I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE HONOR OF BEING ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN
THIS DEDICATION CEREMONY, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE WILSON DAM AND RE-
SERVOIR WAS AUTHORIZED AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION BEFORE MY ELECTION TO
CONGRESS. HAVING LISTENED TO THE FINE SPEAKERS WHO PRECEDED ME, MOST
OF YOU RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OCCASION AND, THEREFORE, I WILL
NOT TAKE MUCH OF YOUR TIME.

THE DAM AND RESERVOIR REPRESENTS ANOTHER IN A GROWING LIST OF LIFE-
SUSTAINING IMPOUNDMENTS IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF KANSAS. IT ADDS ANOTHER
STRONG PLANK IN THE KANSAS PLATFORM FOR WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, AND
IT KEEPS THE MISSOURI RIVER BASIN AHEAD OF THE REST OF OUR NATION IN
BRINGING ABOUT AN ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF ITS WATER RESOURCES.

MOST OF YOU PRESENT PERHAPS KNOW THAT THE WILSON RESERVOIR WAS
AUTHORIZED BY THE FLOOD CONTROL ACT OF 1944 AS AN IRRIGATION AND FLOOD-
CONTROL UNIT AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR CONSTRUCTION
AND OPERATION. HOWEVER, IN 1956 THE PROJECT WAS TRANSFERRED BY CONGRESS-
IONAL ACTION TO THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE BASIS
OF THE 1951 AND SUBSEQUENT FLOODS AND ALSO THE POST-FLOOD DROUGHT PERIOD.

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A RE-EVALUATION STUDY EMPHASIZED THE PREDOMINANT FLOOD-CONTROL INTEREST IN THE PROJECT. THIS WAS THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN THE TRANSFER OF THE PROJECT FROM THE BUREAU TO THE CORPS. MODIFICATIONS IN THE PROJECT WERE MAINLY CONCERNED WITH INCREASED RESERVOIR CAPACITIES TO MEET FLOOD-CONTROL AND WATER-USE NEEDS AS RELATED TO THE SALINE RIVER AND THE KANSAS RIVER BASIN.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE WILSON PROJECT WAS STARTED IN 1960 AND WAS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED IN 1966. THE ESTIMATED FEDERAL COST OF THE PROJECT IS \$20,000,000.

I WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO SINGLE OUT ANY ONE PERSON, OR ANY GROUP OF PERSONS, WHO HAVE PROVIDED THE LEADERSHIP NECESSARY OVER THE YEARS TO COMPLETE THE WILSON DAM RESERVOIR. AS MR. BUZICK HAS POINTED OUT, THE WILSON RESERVOIR ASSOCIATION, COMPOSED OF PERSONS LIVING BELOW THE DAM AND DOWN THE VALLEY AS FAR AS SALINA, COMPRISED THE ORIGINAL PROPONENTS. THIS GROUP WAS ORGANIZED BECAUSE OF A BASIC NEED FOR FLOOD PROTECTION, PLUS SOME HOPE THAT IRRIGATION MIGHT BE FEASIBLE. IT WAS LATER DETERMINED, HOWEVER, THAT ONLY A FEW THOUSAND ACRES WERE IRRIGABLE AND THAT THE QUALITY OF THE WATER WOULD NOT BE SUITABLE FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES.

IN MY JUDGEMENT IF ANY GROUP SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZED, IT WOULD BE THOSE PERSONS, FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND OTHERS, WHO PROVIDED THE LAND TO HOUSE THIS DAM AND RESERVOIR. I KNOW THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THIS AREA AND KNOW THAT MOST OF THEM WERE CALLED UPON TO MAKE GREAT SACRIFICES. THOUGH THEY WERE PAID FOR LAND TAKEN, MONEY ALONE CAN NEVER BE ADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR THE MEMORIES OF LEAVING THE FAMILY HOME. SOME OF THE LAND NOW INUNDATED WAS FOR GENERATIONS OWED AND OCCUPIED BY THE SAME FAMILY. WHILE THOSE OF US NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED CANNOT FULLY APPRECIATE

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THE SACRIFICES MADE, WE DO APPRECIATE HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO TEAR UP ROOTS AND MOVE AWAY AT A TIME IN LIFE WHEN IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO START ANEW. SO, LET ME EMPHASIZE AGAIN THAT WHILE WE ALL TAKE PRIDE TODAY IN DEDICATING THIS NEW AND VITALLY NEEDED RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, AT THE SAME TIME WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE.

CERTAINLY TODAY WE SALUTE THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS, KNOWING, HOWEVER, THAT THE WILSON DAM AND RESERVOIR STANDS AS A MONUMENT TO MORE THAN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, MORE THAN EARTH AND CONCRETE. FOR MANY OTHERS, NOT AS DIRECTLY INTERESTED, THIS PROJECT IS THE FULFILLMENT OF A DREAM, BACKED UP BY TREMENDOUS QUANTITIES OF LEG WORK, STAUNCH SUPPORT FROM CITIZENS UP AND DOWN THE VALLEY, AND SACRIFICES ON THE PART OF THOSE MENTIONED HERETOFORE.

COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT HAS BROUGHT PEACE OF MIND TO MANY IN THE TOWNS OF BEVERLY, CULVER, LINCOLN, SYLVAN GROVE, TESCOTT, NEW CAMBRIA, AND VESPER, WHO SUFFERED FROM FLOODS IN THE PAST. PEOPLE IN THESE AREAS NO LONGER NEED WORRY ABOUT FLOODS ORIGINATING ABOVE WILSON DAM FOR AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, THE PRIMARY BENEFIT FROM THIS PROJECT WILL BE FLOOD CONTROL. THE WILSON RESERVOIR WILL CONTROL A DRAINAGE AREA OF OVER 1900 SQUARE MILES; OR MORE THAN 57 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL SALINE RIVER BASIN AREA. ACCORDING TO THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, IT WILL PROVIDE A HIGH DEGREE OF PROTECTION NOT ONLY TO THESE TOWNS, BUT SOME 60,000 ACRES IN THE SALINE RIVER FLOOD PLAIN. COORDINATED WITH OTHER KANSAS RIVER BASIN UNITS, THIS UNIT WILL HELP TO REDUCE FLOODING ON 210,000 ADDITIONAL ACRES IN THE SMOKY HILL AND KANSAS RIVER FLOOD PLAINS.

ANOTHER PRIMARY BENEFIT WILL BE RECREATIONAL. THE RESERVOIR PROVIDES A MANMADE LAKE OF 9,000 ACRES WITH A 100-MILE SHORELINE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN FORMULATED BY FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES, FIVE PUBLIC-USE

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AREAS TOTALING 4200 ACRES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO MEET INITIAL RECREATION NEEDS. WITHOUT QUESTION, THE FACILITIES FOR SWIMMING, FISHING, CAMPING, AND PICNICS WILL PROVIDE A RECREATIONAL OUTLET FOR THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE MIDWEST IN THE YEARS AHEAD. THIS WILL PROVIDE NOT ONLY PLEASURE FOR VISITORS, BUT WIDESPREAD ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO A GREAT MANY IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA. YES, FOR MANY REASONS WE CAN TAKE PRIDE IN THIS MULTIPLE-PURPOSE RESERVOIR. IT IS INDEED AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF THIS AREA.

I WOULD NOT WANT TO LET THIS OPPORTUNITY PASS BY WITHOUT MENTIONING A MATTER DIRECTLY RELATED TO THIS PROJECT AND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION GENERALLY. THE WORLD'S POPULATION, ACCORDING TO MANY EXPERTS, IS GROWING FASTER THAN ITS ABILITY TO PRODUCE FOOD. IN THE PERIOD OF TIME FROM TODAY TO THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY, THERE WILL BE MORE PEOPLE ADDED TO THE WORLD'S POPULATION ROSTER THAN ARE ALIVE TODAY. IN A FEW YEARS, OVER HALF THE WORLD'S POPULATION WILL BE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE. IN INDIA, FOR EXAMPLE, IT'S ONE MILLION MORE PEOPLE A MONTH, AND IN THE WORLD IT'S OVER ONE MILLION MORE PEOPLE EACH WEEK. AT THE SAME TIME THE EARTH'S AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES ARE PRETTY MUCH CONCENTRATED IN NORTHERN HEMISPHERE TEMPERATE ZONES. THERE WE HAVE THE BASIC PROBLEM THEN. TOO MANY PEOPLE, AND NOT ENOUGH FOOD.

WHAT, THEN, IS THE SOLUTION? ONE FACT STANDS OUT CLEARLY, AMERICA, AND THE AMERICAN FARMER, ARE GOING TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN ANY ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS. CERTAINLY THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST CAMPS ARE NOT GOING TO MEET THESE PROBLEMS. AFTER ALL, IF THEY WERE TO CONQUER THE WORLD, WHO WOULD BE LEFT TO FEED THEM?

I WILL ONLY SUMMARIZE WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE THE PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

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(1) THE WORLD POPULATION, ACCORDING TO MANY, IS GROWING FASTER THAN ITS ABILITY TO PRODUCE FOOD, AND WHILE THE UNITED STATES CANNOT FEED THE WORLD, WE WILL CONTRIBUTE A LARGE PORTION OF TOTAL FOOD AVAILABLE IN EXPORT CHANNELS.

(2) THE AMERICAN FARMER MUST AND WILL MAKE A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TOWARD WORLD FOOD NEEDS; HOWEVER, HE MUST BE ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED FOR HIS LABOR AND HIS INVESTMENT.

(3) FAIR PRICES IN THE MARKET PLACE MUST BE RECOGNIZED AND ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL AND THE AGRIBUSINESS COMMUNITY AS AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT TO ANY SOLUTION TO THE WAR ON HUNGER. BOTH P.L. 480 AND CCC MUST BE USED AS INSTRUMENTS TO BOOST DOMESTIC FARM PRICES, NOT TO DEPRESS THEM.

(4) EFFORTS TOWARD INCREASED PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PRODUCTS BY THE FARMER MUST BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND RELATED INTERESTS -- A PROFIT MOTIVATED SYSTEM MUST PRODUCE THE GOODS.

(5) GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH NOT A PRODUCER, MUST PLAY A VITAL ROLE BY ASSISTING FREE ENTERPRISE, NEGOTIATING WITH THOSE COUNTRIES IN NEED, ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND COORDINATING OVERALL ACTIVITIES.

(6) EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS THROUGH PRIVATE TRADE CHANNELS AS THE ECONOMY IN DEVELOPING NATIONS PERMITS. HERE THE EFFORTS OF AGRIBUSINESS CAN BE CRITICAL. EXERT YOUR BEST EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN ACCESS FOR AMERICAN FARM EXPORTS IN EUROPE. GO FURTHER IN YOUR OWN MARKET DEVELOPMENT WORK. TAKE A FEW CHANCES.

(7) ACCELERATED AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CAN AND SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MEETING RISING WORLD FOOD NEEDS.

IN MY OPINION, THERE IS NO GREATER PROBLEM IN THE WORLD TODAY THAN THAT

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OF MEETING WORLD FOOD NEEDS. MOST OF YOU HERE TODAY ARE DIRECTLY OR
INDIRECTLY INTERESTED IN FOOD PRODUCTION. AS WE PAUSE TO DEDICATE, WE
MIGHT ALSO GIVE THOUGHT TO WHAT EACH OF US CAN DO TO MEET ONE OF THE
GREATEST CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME.

THANK YOU.

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Bob.
Make it Short at table
Longer to Dedicate - Want to Pinch these projects