Remarks by:
IVAL V. GOSLIN, Chief Engineer & Secretary
Upper Colorado River Commission

at
Glen Canyon Damsite

June 17, 1960.

The Upper Colorado River Commission, representing the water-conservation interests of the four States, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, regards the invitation to be here today as a significant honor. It is a rare privilege, indeed, to participate in the ceremonies with our host, Governor Fannin of Arizona, the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Governors of the other States of the Colorado River Basin, the Merritt-Chapman and Scott Corporation, and this fine gathering. All are charged with responsibilities associated with the construction of this magnificent dam and reservoir.

That this is an occasion worth celebrating by all seven States of the Colorado River Basin, no one can deny. It is an event of even greater importance to the four Upper Division States of our Commission, because it marks another great milestone in their development.

The date, April 11, 1956, when President Eisenhower approved the Colorado River Storage Project Act that authorized the construction of Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge and the Navajo Dams and eleven participating irrigation projects, is regarded as the "blast off" of a rocketing new era of development and progress. We are proud of this new program and what it means in direct benefits to Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, and in indirect benefits to the entire United States.

Today is June 17th. We are willing to wager that Secretary Seaton did not choose this date for these ceremonies by accident, or on the basis of convenience or necessity. Very properly, our alert Secretary selected this date because it is the most important date in the history of the expansion of the West. On June 17, 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Reclamation Act that has made possible the homes, farms, industries, national strength and high living standards of millions of Americans. It is most appropriate that on June 17, 1960 the Secretary of the Interior will jet propel the official "First Bucket of Concrete" into the foundation zone of
another great nationally important water-conservation unit under the Bureau of Reclamation program. June 17, 1902 and June 17, 1960 are truly linked by fifty-eight years of proud western history. Today is Reclamation Day!

Magnificent, as it will be, Glen Canyon Dam will have greater significance than as a monument to construction. It will be the powerful lead-horse in a team consisting of Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado, Flaming Gorge Dam on the Green, Curecanti Dam on the Gunnison, and Navajo Dam on the San Juan River that together with Hoover, Parker, Davis and other dams in the Lower Basin, will unlock the potential resources of one-twelfth of continental United States.

The waters of Lake Powell behind Glen Canyon Dam will be used to regulate the flow of the Colorado River in delivering guaranteed quantities of water to the Lower Basin in years of short supply; thus, by exchange, making possible the diversion of water from streams of the Upper Basin States for future domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes. Electric energy generated by water falling hundreds of feet to spin Glen Canyon turbines will power industrial plants and homes. Revenues derived from the sale of hydro-electric power to people and industries in our own Colorado Basin States will pay for Glen Canyon Dam and Reservoir, and will also aid in the repayment of costs of new irrigation projects in the Upper Basin.

We have reasons for feeling proud today. As a free people, through cooperation and participation of local grass-roots citizens, State Engineers and water boards, our Colorado Basin States' Governors, our United States Congress, the President and his Secretary of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation, it is possible today to see our hopes and dreams materializing. We like this American way of doing things. Our sincere hopes for the future are that the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and reservoir in conjunction with other present and potential installations will lead to a new era of interstate cooperation and understanding among all seven of the Colorado River States.

According to the printed program, nearly 420,000 twelve-cubic-yard buckets of concrete will be placed in this dam. Mr. Secretary, this makes your official "First Bucket of Concrete" today an important bucketful. We are also interested in that 420,000th bucketful because the next great moment in the history of the Colorado River will come when the gates at Glen Canyon Dam are closed, and the water begins to rise in Lake Powell. Then the engineering handiwork of man will have provided a water avenue leading to Rainbow Bridge and other inspirational handiworks of Nature. Then the water resources originating in the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming can be put to beneficial uses, and our friends in the Lower Basin can be assured of their apportionment of Colorado River water in each and every year. These are our mutual objectives.