ADDRESS BY GILBERT G. STAMM
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AT THE DEDICATION OF BLOCK 1 OF THE NAVAJO INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT
APRIL 10, 1976

One of the most satisfying aspects of our work in Reclamation is ultimately seeing the water from one of our projects delivered to the planned destination. In this instance, it is even more gratifying for we realize it has been a long time coming.

An even greater thrill will be to see these sparsely vegetated lands transformed into lush fields, proclaiming a new era of progress for the Navajo people.

It seems to me that you have made an auspicious start with systematic planning and preparations to reap the utmost benefits from your project. With this kind of foresight, you are on the threshold of many new economic opportunities.

The blueprint for your success story calls for growing and processing a wide variety of goods which should make this one of the most unique and productive areas in this country.

My Bureau is proud that it was directed to assist the Navajo Nation in the construction of this important project.
We know that irrigation benefits from the project will greatly improve the standard of living for the Navajo people. The farming operations should furnish a means of self-support for 3,350 people and provide a substantial part of the livelihood for about 17,000 Navajo people. Approximately 3,200 families, representing 16,000 additional people, will obtain a substantial part of their livelihood from the agriculturally oriented industries required by development of the project, thus providing a higher standard of living for more than 33,000 Navajo Indians.

The development in the land of the Navajo is not restricted to the agribusiness we have described. Additional facilities to serve the needs of the farm families include schools, housing, farm buildings, roads, fences, and utility installations. Accompanying such progress will be an increasing demand for farm machinery, trucks, and automobiles.

We have enjoyed working with the Navajo Tribe and the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry. We know they are moving steadily toward the goal of establishing a tribal operation to achieve the full potential of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project.

Our visit to this picturesque Navajo Nation is an experience we will long remember. We have had an opportunity to meet so many of you who have worked so tirelessly in support of this project. We share with you the enthusiasm for the arrival of this water today as well as the anticipation for a brighter future resulting from the orderly development of human and natural resources of the reservation.
I thank the Navajo Tribe and the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry for inviting us to participate in this festive occasion. We in Reclamation will continue to concentrate our efforts on keeping construction on schedule for the remainder of your project.
SUGGESTED DRAFT REMARKS FOR SECRETARY KLEPPE AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES FOR BLOCK I, NAVAJO IRRIGATION PROJECT, APRIL 10, 1976

At this dedication ceremony celebrating the beginning of operation for the Navajo Irrigation Project, I am reminded of the title of a best selling book of a few years ago.

It was called The Greening of America. That's a good phrase for today. Those words speak to me of springtime, new life, beauty, enrichment and fruitfulness.

With our actions today we will initiate this year the greening of 10,000 acres of Navajo land -- with additional blocks to be added in subsequent years to embrace a total of approximately 110,000 acres. This land will experience a springtime it has never known before -- made rich and fruitful through the magic of water. We are transforming desert land into 170 square miles of garden.

That is some cause for celebration.

I am delighted to be here to share in the joy of the Navajo people today. This project, when completed, will be the largest single industry of the Navajo Nation. As a tribal enterprise, it will provide jobs for more than 6,000 persons and generate total annual revenues in excess of $150 million. I'm sure that that kind of "greening" will be welcome in Navajoland also.
I am extremely proud today to be the Secretary of the Interior. This project of the Department of the Interior with the Navajo Tribe is one of the great achievements of history.

The pyramids of Egypt are considered one of the seven wonders of the world. They are fantastic engineering feats — but I think what we have accomplished here is comparable as a technical achievement and far superior as a human accomplishment. The usefulness of the pyramids is not apparent; the desert around them is still barren and dry. The ultimate product of the engineer's skill here, however, is not a monument or a tomb; it is a richer, better life for Navajo people. For hundreds of years to come, the work of all the people who labored here -- Navajos and members of the Department, especially from the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Reclamation -- the work of these people will be visible in green fields, in corn and cattle and other good things that sustain and promote human life.

The Navajo Irrigation Project is the largest irrigation project in the world and the most technologically advanced. The main canal is almost fifty miles in length and another 100 miles of intermediate canals and laterals, together with a complex system of pipelines and an on-farm sprinkler system, are included in the project. The water in this project is brought to the fields under pressure and used in a way that minimizes waste and makes the most efficient use of this valuable commodity.
One striking and, I believe, very significant element in this project has been the way that tribal leaders and Government officials have worked together.

We are working hard today to make Indian self-determination effective as our Nation's Indian policy. This project provides a very realistic illustration of the kind of intelligent, active tribal leadership that can make a self-determination policy meaningful.

The Navajo people and their leaders had to want this project to happen -- and they had to plan and push and pull -- and sit through meetings -- and cope with the complexities of lawyers and legislators, deal with the intricacies of engineering and manage some major financial problems. They did these things, and they did them well, and they are to be congratulated.

The relationship between the Navajo people and the Federal Government staff people in this project has been one of respect and cooperation which permitted a healthy give and take and promoted a kind of effort where the result is greater than the sum of the parts. In other words, there could be scraps and disagreements, but there was also a common goal and a willingness to put our shoulders together to the wheel to get there. The tribe and the Government have worked as partners to reach this day and to make this project successful. To me that is the healthiest kind of Indian self-determination.
With this kind of self-determination and cooperative effort, I think the Indian community of this country is going to experience unparalleled progress and achievement in the next decade or two. There won't be any bevy of projects of the scope of the Navajo Irrigation Project. That would be unreal. But there will be great things accomplished, because competent, effective Indian leaders will be given the opportunity to work with the support and cooperation of officials and leaders of the Government of the United States.

At this dedication ceremony, I want to be mindful of all who helped to bring about this day. I want to commend the Departmental employees of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs who have had a special involvement in this work. And I particularly want to congratulate the Navajo people and their leaders who have contributed so much to this great project.

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No!
Only speech from interior at dedication was by
Klopse —
Did you give this speech? Canoe wants to take some quotes for the newsletter. I was not sure how much it was used.