Page Incorporation Ceremony

Acknowledgements

Mr. Chairman,

.....and Mrs. John C. Page.

I cannot tell you how honored I am to share this platform with Mrs. Page. Her husband, who gave his name to this community, was one of my most illustrious predecessors as Commissioner of Reclamation. John C. Page began his career in Reclamation in 1909 as a topographer with the Reclamation Service. He was office engineer at Boulder Canyon Project headquarters during construction of Hoover Dam and Commissioner of Reclamation from 1937 to 1943. William E. Warne, in his book
The Bureau of Reclamation, states that Mister Page "epitomized the Reclamation engineer at his best."
As Commissioner, John Page presided over the greatest program expansion in the history of Reclamation. The years during which he was Commissioner are considered by many to be the "Golden Years of Reclamation."

I am pleased that Mrs. Page is able to be with us to share in what I hope will be a shining day in her golden years.
Remarks Prepared for Delivery by
Gilbert G. Stamm, Commissioner of Reclamation
At Ceremonies Marking the Incorporation
of Page, Arizona
March 22, 1975

This is indeed a happy day not only for the residents of Page but for those of us in the Bureau of Reclamation who have for so long, like you, been looking forward to the day the citizens of this community would win the right to govern themselves.

In the long history of the Bureau of Reclamation there have been only two other government towns like Page--Boulder City, Nevada, and Coulee Dam, Washington--and both of them have long since become incorporated and grown into stable, respected communities.
During the past 18 years, this town has served well as a home for those who built Glen Canyon Dam and Powerplant and those who manage recreational facilities at Lake Powell. It has been a home base for those latter day explorers who have come from all over the Nation and the world to discover for themselves the beauty of Lake Powell.

But during those 18 years, the residents of this community have been in one sense second class citizens in that they have been denied the right to self-government.

It was with eventual self-government in mind that we established the Page Advisory Council in 1964 and gave the citizens of this community their first voice in community affairs.

Like most projects in which the Bureau of Reclamation is engaged, the incorporation of the
Town of Page has required close cooperation between representatives of many different entities; cooperation with and from the different administrations in Washington and Arizona; the Arizona Congressional delegation; the Page Advisory Council; and the residents of this community.

And it should not be forgotten that the land now occupied by the Town of Page was once a part of the Navajo Indian Reservation. On all matters pertaining to Glen Canyon Dam and to Page, the leaders of the Navajo Tribe have displayed the spirit of cooperation which has made development possible. One of the most important actions leading to today's celebration was the signing of the Navajo Land Exchange Agreement.

Earlier this month the Bureau of Reclamation presented to the Town a check for more than half a million dollars to help meet expenses until the
revenues from Federal, State, and County
governments—to which the incorporated Town is
now entitled—become available.

Now it is my pleasant duty to present to
the Mayor two additional birthday gifts on behalf
of the Federal Government. First this deed
which I have signed on behalf of the United States
and which delivers to the citizens of Page 17 square
miles of land, a hospital, police and fire protection
systems, a sewage system, water treatment and
distribution facilities, streets and roads, parks
and playgrounds, an airport, a cemetery, municipal
government buildings, and other property and
equipment.

And finally, this key to the city. This may
be the first time in history that a Mayor has been
on the receiving end of the traditional, symbolic
key to the city, but I think it is an appropriate
way to mark the transfer of control of this community from the Federal Government... through Mayor Martindale... to the self-governing, first-class citizens of Page, Arizona.