Mr. Chairman; Governor Love; My fellow servants in elective, appointive and civil service positions of government at all levels; ladies and gentlemen -- Fellow citizens all.

The psalmist wrote: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." May I add to the verse these words: "of purpose and action." Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity of purpose and action. Such living together in recent years has made it possible for us to meet for our ceremonies today.

I am not so sure that in these days of rapid transportation and almost instantaneous communication that we understand each other or each other's problems any better or more effectively than in the days of yesteryear. We should; but, I doubt that we do. And, yet, it is such understanding, no matter how acquired, that brings people together as we are meeting here. We are here today because there have been many understandings reached where formerly prejudices and misunderstandings existed. We are here today because there have been agreements where formerly the inability to agree made impossible the fulfillment of dreams.
And so today, if I do nothing else -- if I voice no other worthy thought -- I wish to commend all of those whose efforts, whose talents, and whose contributions have made possible the start of construction of the Fryingpan-Arkansas project. As with all such large undertakings, many people and many groups of people have been involved and have contributed. As is necessary, in a private enterprise economy, many have opposed at times what others desired. Those differences have been resolved.

I commend the leaders and the people of the Southeastern Colorado Conservancy District. I commend the leaders and the people of the Colorado River Water Conservancy District. I commend the officeholders -- elective and appointive -- of the government of Colorado, including those servants of yesterday as well as those of today. To all who helped make today possible I voice the most simple and yet the most eloquent of all expressions: I thank you!

With a project of such magnitude, it has been necessary to call for help from the Federal government. From the very beginning, the spokesmen for the
Federal government have said: "Take care of your internal differences and we will be in position to join with you." When we resolved our differences the Federal Government, including the Congress, came through with the needed help. And so, we say "thank you" to Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and now Johnson -- and to their Secretaries of Interior and Commissioners of Reclamation. But I would be remiss if I did not single out from this group of benefactors, the present Secretary, Stewart Udall, and the present Commissioner, Floyd Dominy, and their associates. I also would include in this group Assistant Secretary John Kelly and Presidential aid, Claude Desautels, who are here at my request and personal desire.

Never have I worked with more understanding and cooperative government leaders and spokesmen than Secretary Udall and Commissioner Dominy. We have had our differences and we shall undoubtedly have many more in the future. They have their responsibilities to discharge. The members of Congress and the users of the vast public land areas have theirs. But, it is a pleasure, I can assure you, to be able to work with representatives of high levels of government who are able and understanding. Such are the qualifications and attitudes of the two whom I have singled out for special commendation. So, here among my people -- Coloradoans who have been so kind and good to me -- I say to you, Secretary Udall, and to you,
Commissioner Dominy: Thank you for your help, thank you for your presence once again among us, and thank you for your continuing interest in our welfare. I am most pleased and honored that you join me here today, at this ground-breaking ceremony in this area of such great natural beauty, as we mark another step in the development of Colorado's most valuable physical resource -- water.

The future growth of Colorado, agriculturally and industrially, will be measured by the sum total of her available water supplies and the way this resource is put to use. The works we are commencing today will enrich the economy of Colorado and the Nation and will add greatly to America's outdoor recreational opportunities. Therefore, it should be with a deep sense of satisfaction and pride that we are starting to move dirt after 40 years of dreaming, after 30 years of intensive planning, after more than 10 years of legislative history in the Congress of the United States, and after recent unexpected delays in order to be certain that we are building on a sound foundation.

It has been almost two years since the morning of August 16, 1962 when I stood behind our beloved 36th President Kennedy as he gave his approval to the Act authorizing the Rio Grande, Arkansas, and Ouachita project and then flew with him the next day.
to Pueblo where he saluted this project and paid tribute to all those who made it possible - a tribute which I am repeating today. On that historic occasion -- that victory celebration marking the passage of the legislation -- President Kennedy referred to the Fryingpan-Arkansas project in these words:

"This is an investment in the future of this country, an investment that will pay large dividends. It is an investment in the growth of the West, in the new cities and industries which the project helps make possible."

President Kennedy then continued:

"I salute the statesmanship of the leaders on both sides of the mountain, those who help provide water and those who use it."

In these few words, President Kennedy put his finger on the two most important aspects of the Fryingpan-Arkansas project -- its meaning to the economy of our State and the statesmanlike cooperation and understanding on both sides of the Continental Divide which made the project a reality - the spirit of cooperation which I referred to a moment ago.

The present era of good feeling and cooperation that exists today in Colorado with respect to development of our water resources can be attributed to our understanding and agreements arrived at on the Fryingpan-Arkansas project more than any other single factor. Although some agreement had been reached by 1952 on the Operating Principles for the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, it was not such
that the State of Colorado could demonstrate a strong unified effort before the Congress in support of the authorizing legislation. The state's policy making agency on water matters, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, was fractured by internal dissension, and it was difficult to determine what the State's actual policy was. Commencing in 1956, however, a concerted effort was made to resolve the Fryingpan-Arkansas problem, and, in 1958, at the request of Governor McNichols, this matter was assigned the top priority by the State Water Board. After many months of long and laborious negotiations by representatives of eastern and western slope interests, a set of Operating Principles was finally agreed upon, approved by the official state agencies having jurisdiction of the matter on both sides of the Continental Divide, and was certified to Congress as representing the official policy of the State of Colorado.

The Operating Principles represent cooperation of the people of the eastern and western slopes in developing criteria acceptable to both slopes and to the State as a whole, without which the Congress of the United States would not have acted. The primary purpose of the Operating Principles was -- and is -- to protect future western slope water needs. Western slope interests were understandably
concerned that exportation of water from western Colorado through the Continental Divide might leave them without water that will be needed in the future as industry and agriculture expand.

Only a minor part of the capacity of the Ruedi Reservoir will be needed to replace water diverted through the Fryingpan tunnel to the Arkansas Valley. The remaining capacity will conserve and store early runoff of the Fryingpan River Basin for maintaining stream flows to enhance our valuable fishing industry and to meet future needs of western slope water users -- not only for agricultural and municipal water purposes but for industrial purposes, such as the development of oil shale -- an industry which can have a tremendous impact upon the economy of not only Western Colorado but the entire State and the Nation.

During the years that we were successfully negotiating a set of Operating Principles relating to the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project we were also successful in obtaining approval of a fully integrated and coordinated reclamation program in Western Colorado. In 1956, Congress passed the Colorado River Storage Project Act. Since 1956, six projects have been constructed or are now under construction in Western Colorado representing a total capital investment of about $175 million. In addition to the construction program, four other Western Colorado projects with a total cost of approximately $150 million are now awaiting action by the Congress. I have every expectation that three of these projects will be authorized for...
In addition to those projects upon which the economic feasibility studies have been completed, there are nine other Western Colorado reclamation projects now under active investigation, with an estimated total cost of $326 million. The magnitude, therefore, of the total active reclamation program here in Western Colorado, which has taken place since 1956 is about $650 million. I emphasize the scope of our reclamation program here in Colorado to illustrate that this tremendous program has come about only as a result of determined teamwork by and among the people of Colorado, their elected representatives, and their various official water agencies. We learned that any undertaking in this State to develop and conserve our water resources must be undertaken as a common venture for the benefit of the entire State. There is no county, section, or municipality of this State which can stand alone.

As construction gets underway on the Reudi Dam and other features of the Fryingpan-Arkansas project, the economic impact will be quickly felt throughout our
State. A rapid increase in employment to more than a thousand is expected, with a leveling off at around that figure for several years. In this Western Slope area alone payrolls for at-site labor will approximate $18 million over the construction period.

When project construction is completed, the permanent and continuing values and impact of the project will begin to be felt. The Fryingpan-Arkansas project will produce an estimated $33 million annually in added income in Colorado alone. One needs to look no further than our own "Big Tom" project to get a fairly good picture of what we can expect. For example, the cities of Boulder, Fort Collins, Greeley, Longmont, Loveland and Sterling have increased in population by more than 60 per cent since completion of the "Big Tom" project. And you have but to drive in the mountain communities to note that each has become a booming resort. Tourists flock to Estes Park, Grand Lake and elsewhere and business enterprises are thriving.

I would like to add a few additional words on the importance of the outdoor recreation aspects of the Fryingpan-Arkansas project. With recreation growing faster than other leading industries and the need for recreational opportunities expanding so fast, we have seen the rapid broadening of the multiple-purpose concept in the development of water projects. The Colorado River Storage
for recreation development in connection with reclamation projects. The Storage Project was the first major plan authorized to include full development of the recreation and fish and wildlife resources. The Fryingpan Project Act includes the same authority. Therefore, as the work goes forward on the dam and reservoir we are starting today, and the other features of the project, full advantage will be taken of the outdoor recreation potential including fish and wildlife opportunities. A clear, cool, inviting water surface of 1,000 acres is expected to attract more than half a million water-oriented recreationists to this area annually. Fishermen, boaters, water skiers, overnight campers, and picnickers will have access to the facilities provided in this majestic mountain setting. There will also be opportunities for private developments for lodges and resort attractions which are popular, in demand and needed in the projects' communities. Garfield, Pitkin and Eagle counties are to be commended for the aggressive steps already taken toward developing an over-all recreation plan.
The outdoor recreational potential of Reudi Reservoir combined with the tremendous recreational value of Sugar Loaf, Twin Lakes and other reservoirs presently underway and added later will provide in Colorado one of the outstanding water-oriented recreation areas in the Nation. This provision for water-oriented recreational facilities to supplement the already existing recreational opportunities available in Colorado's Federal and State Parks and Forests will attract literally millions of people annually to our State. Additional wealth will be created and our economy will be greatly strengthened by this influx of visitors. While we can not measure the intangible benefits of having this tremendous outdoor recreation area available to serve our exploding population, there is the tangible benefit which can be measured in terms of expenditures for sports equipment, for accommodations and travel and other services of recreation.

And so today we commence the creation of the first phase of the fulfillment of dreams of many years. The marvels of the Creator and the dreams of men will rendezvous on this eastern and western slope of the Rockies in the Fryingpan and in the Arkansas Valleys; they will fuse and blend to complement and enhance each other in these surroundings of natural beauty. In the process, economic rebirth for the Arkansas Valley will result, the economy of Colorado will be
greatly enhanced, and a recreational area of truly national significance will be created.