

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE ROGERS C. B. MORTON, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AT THE CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT GROUNDBREAKING, LAKE HAVASU, ARIZONA, MAY 6, 1973

America's achievements are the product of our national aspirations, and of the dimensions of our resources. The quality of our achievements, and of our future, however, will ultimately depend on how we shape our land, our air, and our water.

~~The Central Arizona Project is a reflection not only of the dimensions of our resources, but of our desires for the future.~~

Today, as we celebrate the groundbreaking for the Havasu pumping plant intake channel, we are marking the culmination of almost two decades of legislative effort, and a triumph in regional planning. This project is more than a complex of dams, canals, pumping stations and drainage works.

As the largest repayment reclamation project ever undertaken, it is a measure of the heritage and vision of the Southwest, of Arizona's land, and her people.

While its primary objective is to deliver as much as possible of Arizona's remaining entitlement to 2.8 million acre feet of Colorado River water to the cities, industries, and farms in the central Arizona area, it will do far more:

*As a result of an agreement derived at a meeting a few months ago in Phoenix, the CAP will provide supplemental water for the Indian tribes in Central Arizona, and at the same time will preserve the rights of Indian tribes along the Colorado River. I personally took part in those negotiations, and know that members of Arizona's Congressional delegation share my pride in the results.

~~*To provide added flood protection to the Phoenix metropolitan area, our plans call for early construction of a 12-mile detention dike above the Granite Reef Aqueduct through Paradise Valley. We have, incidently already initiated efforts to acquire the right-of-way for this vital portion of the CAP.~~

*And, perhaps most important of all, the current CAP plans meet the criteria of the National Environmental Protection Act, President Nixon signed into law in 1970.

As a result of the CAP's supplemental Colorado River water, the project also will reduce the serious decline in Arizona's watertable.

There is little question that the future of Arizona and the Southwest will always depend upon the supply of water. President Nixon recognizes this. I believe that it is especially worth noting that while the President and the Congress are seeking to offset the possibility of an increase in taxes and inflation, that the funds have been made available today. I would like to personally extend the President's best wishes to Governor Williams, the distinguished Congressional delegation, and the people of Arizona on this momentous occasion.

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While there are so many individuals whose dedication and perserverance contributed to the groundbreaking we are celebrating -- many of whom are with us today -- it would be unthinkable not to mention Arizona's great statesman and Senator, Carl Hayden.

For Carl Hayden, perhaps more than anyone else, had the vision and determination to make Central Arizona Project a reality.

There is a story, that Carl Hayden often related about his first years during a distinguished and almost unparalleled career in the Congress.

When Senator Hayden first served in the U.S. House of Representatives custom prevented first term, and even second and third term Congressmen, from taking at all an active part in floor debate.

After remaining silent for months, or perhaps a year or so, an issue vital to Arizona -- but of little interest to the rest of the country -- finally came to the floor for debate. Carl Hayden immediately asked to be recognized for one minute, and then proceeded to the well of the House to speak. He spoke eloquently, making the case for Arizona's needs, then returned to his seat when his minute was up.

As he sat down, one of the House elders leaned across his desk whispering into Congressman Hayden's ear, "Finally had to open your mouth, huh!"

If there is one point to be made about the history of the Central Arizona Project, it is that Arizona Congressional delegation has never been reluctant to speak up!

Before asking Governor Williams to join me in the official State-Federal spade work, it is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Clifford A. Pugh, whose initials and professional ability distinguish him as the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Arizona Project Manager.

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