

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY
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MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S REMARKS
DEDICATION OF FLAMING GORGE DAM
DUTCH JOHN, UTAH

No one can follow the trail I have followed the last four days without catching the spirit of the West. It has been the spirit of adventure which made bold pioneers and brave frontiersmen -- the spirit of optimism which caused men and women to dream big and build big.

John Wesley Powell, the geologist-explorer who named Flaming Gorge, showed such a spirit. About a hundred years ago, he made his daring journey down these rapids while studying the water system of this mountain region. And he dreamed dreams about a network of huge dams which could cause this arid land to flower.

I feel a kinship to Powell, for my husband and I have also dreamed of dam building -- though much further to the south where the Green River becomes one with the Colorado. During Lyndon's first years in Congress back in 1937, he devoted his prime energies to the program for harnessing water for man's use. Today, we get a special pleasure when we drive through Central Texas past the lakes and reservoirs and watch the fishermen and water skiers. Wise use of water has enriched the quality of our lives as much as it has increased the quantity of our resources.

How many people have dreamed and planned and built to bring this great reservoir into being! I wish John Wesley Powell could again board his boat at Green River City and float through Flaming Gorge to see how much greater is today's reality than yesterday's dream. I also wish my husband could be here because he believes strongly that the age of adventure is not over.

The battle of the future, as my husband defined it at the University of Michigan, will be waged in both the countrysides and the cities. In this spectacular wilderness you have already done a great deal to win the battle for the countrysides. Both your natural beauty and your wildlife will be safer, now that the Wilderness Bill has passed both Houses of Congress.

But what of your cities and towns? Here, too, your dream is a great one. Brigham Young once voiced it, "Let the people ... make beautiful cities, in which may be found magnificent edifices, for the convenience of the public, handsome streets, skirted with shade trees, fountains of water, crystal streams; and every tree, shrub, and flower that will flourish in this climate, to make our mountain home a paradise."

I urge you not to forget these dreams. Let us remember these pioneers. Americans have always felt that the tomorrow of our children should be better than the yesterday of our parents. We share a faith in life that the best is yet to come, that we must build our future, not belittle it.

In this spirit and with this wish, I dedicate your Flaming Gorge Dam.

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