



news release

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FOR P.M.'S RELEASE B - 3805

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

TEXT PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
BY
SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY
WESTERN STATES WATER AND POWER CONSUMERS CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

This is one of the few places in the country where I can claim to be a Southerner.-- and having just returned from Georgia, I am becoming more of a Southerner all the time.

I'll have to admit that there were some Winter days when I was growing up down in South Dakota when I thought your state was just a big ice box with the door open. But I've learned a lot since then. And the warmth of your welcome today reinforces my affection for Dakota people.

Just four years ago, Senator John F. Kennedy stood on this platform before you and set forth his program for developing the power and water resources of this nation. In his 1,000 days in office he halted the aimless mess into which our conservation program had drifted and sent it moving forward again.

But only a beginning has been made.

I come here today to deliver one message: the administration of Lyndon B. Johnson and Hubert H. Humphrey intends to continue this forward looking program of water and power development. We repudiate the Goldwaterite program of retreat and reaction in the development of these essential resources.

You know the President's record, and you know my record. You know our philosophies. Power, water, and resource development have always held the highest priority on President Johnson's and my own list of objectives.

We have fought to protect the preference clause from erosion by Congressional or executive action. We have supported the building of great dams. For ten years the Goldwaterites have waged an all-out war to destroy the rural electrification program and

we have been defending the low interest rate and the generation and transmission loan program against the Goldwaterite wrecking crew. We will continue to stand firm in our support for REA -- which Senator Goldwater says should be dissolved.

If any one thing is characteristic of the American people it is an unwavering faith in the future. It is the belief that tomorrow must be better than today. This is the essence of the American philosophy and the American dream. It is my own personal philosophy and my own dream.

The America of the future will consider its natural resources to be irreplaceable property of all its people.

The human value of resource development has been demonstrated clearly in the Tennessee Valley where poverty and hopelessness have given way to regional prosperity and pride.

The leader of the Goldwater faction has proposed to sell the TVA "even if we could only get a dollar for it." I want to assure you that President Johnson and I are not going to sell the TVA for a dollar. We are not going to sell the Garrison Dam for fifty cents. And we are not going to sell Grand Coulee for two bits.

The Senator would like to have the billion-dollar Central Arizona project in his own state. But his program for the rest of the country adds up to exactly nothing.

I submit that if the leader of the Goldwaterites had been President 60 years ago -- and the nation's first reclamation project, Theodore Roosevelt Dam, hadn't been built -- there wouldn't be much business today for the Goldwater department store. In fact, there wouldn't be many people living in the desert region we now call Phoenix, Arizona.

A revolution has taken place in the technology of water and power development, and I believe we have the responsibility to make this technological upheaval produce the greatest benefit to the American people.

Today we can produce pure water from the salty sea. The Johnson-Humphrey Administration will devote the necessary money

and manpower to achieve the economic breakthrough which lies just ahead of us -- to obtain cheap water as well as pure water to benefit our arid West and the parched and hungry desert dwellers in many parts of the world,

Transmission of cheap electric power over long distance by extra-high voltage lines is becoming a reality. The personal leadership of President Johnson resulted in a Federal line between the Columbia Basin and California's Central Valley project and got the Pacific Northwest-Southwest intertie underway after 16 years of struggle in Congress. This is a "first". Soon, all the major Federal power systems will be inter-connected -- and the Missouri Basin will benefit from power sales and exchanges which more fully utilize our resources.

Power pooling agreements should be worked out and inter-connections built wherever such projects can produce more dependable and lower cost power for the ultimate benefit of American consumers.

Low-cost power and reclamation of arid land often have been called partners in the development of the West. The new farms created by reclamation create new consumers of electricity, and the power revenues from reclamation dams help to pay for the water which makes farming possible,

You will soon see such benefits here in North Dakota if the House goes along with the Senate and approves the Garrison Diversion Project, which Senator Burdick has worked so hard to establish.

This project will create family farms with a dependable water supply, suitable for growing crops other than wheat -- crops that are not in surplus supply. It will mean immediate jobs for construction workers and jobs and revenue for the home builders, the cafe owners and the grocery store operators who serve them. As the ripples of prosperity spread, it will create new payrolls for local banks to handle new demands for construction equipment, household appliances, furniture, automobiles, added freight for

the railroads and trucks to carry. A new reclamation project for North Dakota will bring important long-range benefits as well -- it will help keep our farm population stable. It will mean new customers for farm equipment distributors, new schools and churches, gas stations, and, of course, drug stores.

Tomorrow we will see more and more of our fellow citizens living in what is now rural America as our cities continue to push outward in their endless search for living space. And these people cannot be expected to live in a rural America like that of a quarter-century ago -- or even like that of yesterday.

The Federal government must -- and will, I can assure you, if Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey have anything to say about it -- continue to place its weight behind a strong rural electrification program. The favorable financing and the strong encouraging of rural electric co-ops which has been the unaltered policy of the Democratic Party since Franklin Roosevelt must and will be continued.

The rural electric cooperatives have contributed immeasurably to the health and wealth and well-being of this nation. They continue to search out ways in which to help build a greater rural America.

They are taking the lead in helping to revitalize the industry and economy of those areas of the nation where it most needs revitalizing.

They are working tirelessly at building of heavier facilities needed to meet the over-growing demands for electricity in rural America.

They are giving freely of their time and experience to help the Agency for International Development build rural electric cooperatives in the less fortunate nations of the world. And they have an exciting and necessary place in the rural America of tomorrow. President Johnson and I intend to see that they are there to meet the demands placed upon them by the future.

The publicly-owned electric systems which serve some 2,000

local communities in the United States must also grow and prosper. Americans will continue to have the right to decide for themselves whether they wish to provide electricity for themselves or contract for service for their cities and towns with private power companies.

The goal of a Johnson-Humphrey administration must be to build a stronger economy by using God's bounty wisely and to develop our resources for the benefit of all our citizens.

With this as our goal, what shall be our program?

1. To give firm Federal leadership to the comprehensive development of our water resources. With only about 25% of our hydroelectric potential developed, we must move promptly toward full development of our nation's great river systems.
2. To implement the letter and spirit of the long-standing preference clause in the marketing of Federal power. President Johnson and I have given our firm support to this principle. We will continue to do so.
3. To promote and encourage the use of advanced technology in our American power industry, keeping in mind always that the ultimate beneficiary of the new techniques must be the American consumer. Large-scale generating stations and extra-high voltage transmission have opened new vistas for economic power production. We will push forward plans to interconnect federal wholesale power systems which will insure that customers of all utilities, regardless of size or ownership, will have an opportunity to participate in the benefits. We will back Federal transmission lines where they are needed to insure that Americans enjoy the advantages of abundant electricity at low cost and to provide maximum return from Federal investment. In the movement of Federal power, whenever Federal transmission lines are not built, the common carrier concept should be included in any wheeling or exchange agreement with private companies providing wheeling service for the transmission of Federal power.

4. To aid and advance the cause of rural electrification. President Johnson and I believe in the REA program. We will seek to encourage, not eliminate, this valuable work, which has brought a better life to millions of Americans throughout the United States. We will continue to support the efforts of your leaders to help build a better America, and to stand behind their efforts with favorable financing and government cooperation.

5. To carry forward the research and development needed to give America a healthy atomic energy industry. We must experiment with many types of reactors, small as well as large, in order to give the consumer-owned as well as privately owned utilities a place in this program. And full Federal responsibility must be exercised to assure the American people of the safety of these new power devices.

6. To hasten the day when cheap, pure water can be taken from the sea. We will continue to expand our efforts in the desalting of water, including research on the use of nuclear power for desalinization.

7. To encourage the development of the great lignite coal fields of the West as fuel for the steam plants which will be part of the regional power systems of the future. Here in the Missouri Basin we have seen the signing of the Missouri Basin Systems Pooling Agreement, the first instance in which the Federal government worked out area-wide arrangements with municipalities and rural electric cooperatives for use of the capacity in the Federal transmission system to deliver power to each other. Such agreements make feasible the generation of power from lignite coal in huge regional steam plants. We support this and smaller cooperative endeavors in other regions.

8. And finally, to follow the advice of Teddy Roosevelt, who told us all long ago to use every drop of water for the benefit of man, as it travels from the mountains to the sea.

Nowhere in this nation is there a group of more progressive, forward looking people than I see assembled here today. No other group shares more of my hopes and dreams for the future of our great Nation.

You are attending this water and power conference because you care about the development of America's water resources, because you believe that such development is critically needed to provide job opportunities for our young people, to invigorate rural communities, to keep the West prosperous and productive.

And I want to assure you that I am here for exactly the same reasons.

I wish you success, I ask your help.

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Note: The Western States Power Conference was drafted by Alex Padin of the American Public Power Association in consultation with Angus McDonald of the Farmers Union. It was cleared with the White House.

21 states }
45 cities } to Des Moines
23,131 miles }

By the way, I have a question about the
map of the state of Iowa, which shows the
location of the state capital, Des Moines,
and the location of the state's largest city,
Des Moines.

George S. ...
Cartersville
W. Va.

Sen Burdick
Rolland Redlin
(West Va)
Dist

Western States Water and Power Conference

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JFK

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Rural

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for our young people, to invigorate rural communities,
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And I want to assure you that I am here for
exactly the same reasons.

I wish you success. I ask your help *in this*
election.

Speech of
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
at Bismarck, North Dakota
October 1, 1964

Senator Humphrey. Thank you, very much, my very good friends, Senator Quentin Burdick. Nothing pleases this Senator from Minnesota more than to be introduced by his very good friend and one of the most able and dedicated members of the United States Senate, Quentin Burdick, and I know you are going to re-elect him. (Applause)

This is not just a North Dakota meeting. I know that I am talking to key civic leaders, agricultural leaders, business-leaders, civic leaders, people deeply interested in conservation and irrigation and reclamation and power from many of the great western States of America. My remarks today will be directed not merely to this great State of North Dakota but indeed directed to our national goals and our national purposes. But I would be remiss if I did not take just a moment to just comment very briefly upon some of our distinguished participants and guests at this meeting. You surely do bring out all the big guns. I notice that you have had Lee Metcalf, able Senator, a tremendous person in the Congress of the United States, here with you today, Senator Metcalf of Montana, and I also know that tonight you are going to have as your banquet speaker my next door neighbor in Washington and a man that I got into politics, his wife scolded me for it but I guess she has forgotten me now, Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, a wonderful United States Senator.

I see that you properly balanced this program by having this wonderful leader of rural America, one who understands how to make not only the economic values good for America but also the spiritual values of it, my friend and one with whom I have been closely associated and worked for years, Father Vizzard, I surely am happy to see you again, Father. If they would just listen to the both of us.

And when I got off the airplane out here, I saw Clyde Ellis, and I said now what in the world have they got me here for. You have got the professor, why do you want a student? (Laughter) Clyde, I see that you are going to participate in this program and give these folks some of the good solid information and solid constructive leadership so many of us need these days, and I am delighted to see you. (Applause)

It always makes Hubert Humphrey feel a little better when I see one of the truly great citizens of our country, a

gentleman whose heart is as big as the heavens and whose purpose is as sound as the constitution, and whose life is dedicated to others and that is my old friend, Jim Patton.
(Applause)

It is dangerous to single out people but I surely would not want to miss saying a word about my good friend Ed Christensen of Minnesota. You never want to forget home base.
(Applause)

Well, we have a great program, I could go down the line to each and every one of you and we are going to learn a great deal from this program and I know these two candidates for Congress here in North Dakota are learning a great deal and undoubtedly are making a great contribution in your deliberations, we have Roland Redlin who is out in the West District -- out in South Dakota, they call that the West River District. I guess you just call it the Western District here.

And you have George Sinner in the East District. So these two men will surely serve a very important role in Congress if the good folks of North Dakota will just back up the President by sending many Congressmen that back the President and back the program and you know who they are, Goege Sinner and Roland Redlin, so you North Dakotans get busy. (Applause)

They tell me that last night you had a birthday party around here, and I think that is great. We had a little party down in Iowa last night, too. I was down there with a great Democratic Governor, Governor Harold Hughes. We had a wonderful party for him, the big testimonial. How I wish I could have split myself last night and been partly in Iowa and partly in North Dakota, because I always feel a little better when I see that the people of North Dakota look a little better every time they have a Democratic Governor and, Governor Guy, I want to say you have done a great job. (Applause) He is a remarkable man. He is a go-getter. He has put some real spark into this economy and into this fine State of North Dakota, and I understand the Governor is up for re-election. I can't even recall who is running against him and I hope no one else can. (Applause)

I want to warn you, don't you take anything for granted. We had an election in Minnesota a couple of years ago. We finally were able to arrive at what's the difference between a Norwegian and a Swede. The Republican that was in office up to that election was of Swedish descent and our candidate

was of Norwegian descent, and they had an election, and was it ever something, and after casting one million, three hundred thousand votes, it appeared that the Swedish Republican had won, and then we had another count, a more honest count, and then it appeared that the Norwegian Democrat had won. So the joke in Minnesota is what's the difference between a Swede and a Norwegian, and the answer is 91 votes. (Laughter) 91 votes. But don't you ever forget it. Every vote counts, every last one, and I will tell you if you are elected by 91 votes majority it is just as good as if you were elected by 91,000. It doesn't feel as good but it works just as well. (Applause)

Governor, we don't want you to worry, to go along too fast, for I have a feeling the people of North Dakota are going to keep you right here in Bismarck, the State capital, keep you on the job building for this State.

I sure like to come here. As a matter of fact, it seems like I was just here a short time ago. I was over near Fargo, out there at the plowing contest, and now some of the folks have said to me, some of these good folks that don't understand us around this way, they say, "Humphrey, every time you come to North Dakota it rains, isn't that a bad sign?" and I say, "You just never lived in North Dakota or South Dakota. When it rains, it is a good sign. We need rain." (Laughter) (Applause)

I can remember when I was a young man down in South Dakota in the thirties we used to look up there in the heavens and we would see these big storm clouds, this was during the draught period and we prayed for rain and I mean we really prayed for it, and people would say, "Well, it looks like it is going to rain now, look at the clouds," and my dad would say, "Don't fool yourself, Hubert, it's not going to rain. Those are just the empties coming back. It rained some place else."

So whenever we have rain we are grateful in this great agricultural area.

This is one of the few places in the country where I can claim to be a Southerner. I was born in South Dakota, and I have just returned from Georgia. So I feel more of a Southerner all the time.

Just about four years ago, a great man stood on this platform, he was a candidate for President, his name was John F. Kennedy, and he on that occasion set forth his program for developing the power and the water resources of this nation,

and in his one thousand dramatic days of leadership he halted the aimless mess into which our conservation programs had drifted, and he set our conservation, irrigation, power and reclamation programs on the forward path once again. (Applause)

But as our brave young President said, "Let us begin." It was only a beginning, and we know that. It takes sometime to get a country back in motion again once it has been stopped to a halt.

Well, I come here today to deliver but one message, and that message is this: The administration of Lyndon B. Johnson and Hubert H. Humphrey intends to continue and to expand this forward looking program of water and power developments. (Applause) We repudiate the Goldwaterite program of retreat and reaction in the development of these essential resources, and it has amazed me how a man that comes from an Arizona that hungers for water so much, and that should understand the importance of reclamation and irrigation and power and water, how that man can ignore this issue time after time and day after day, how he can talk about all of the emotional issues, charging President Johnson with everything in the book, including only recently that worn out hackneyed old stinky argument called "Soft on Communism," but never, ever getting down to the basic issues that face the American people and the needs of the American people.

Now you know President Johnson's record, and I see tonight it is going to be discussed even in some detail because as I look at your program I believe that I saw on the program at 4:30 this afternoon, "The Young Lyndon Johnson," commentary by Michael Straus, consultant on river resources. Well, you are going to find out that Lyndon Johnson as a Congressman, Lyndon Johnson as a Senator, and Lyndon Johnson as a President has dedicated a lifetime of talent and energy and ability to the development of the great natural resources of America and to the conservation of those resources, and that is the kind of a President that America needs. (Applause)

I think you people know our philosophies, power, water and resource development always have top priority. We have fought to protect the preference clause from erosion by either congressional or executive action, and we have (Applause) we have supported the building of the great dams. For ten years the Goldwaterites have waged an all out war to destroy the Rural Electrification Program, Clyde, and we have been defending it, Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey, and Senator Burdick, Senator Metcalf and Senator Mac Govern, yes, we have

been defending the low interest rate, and the generation and transmission loan program against the Goldwaterite wrecking crew. (Applause)

And we will continue to stand firm in our support for REA, which Senator Goldwater says should be dissolved.

Now if anyone thing is characteristic of the American people, it is an unwavering faith in the future. We are optimists. This is why I feel that this Republican candidate just isn't with us. He just doesn't have any sense of joy, no sense of optimism, no sense of confidence. I guess he has been reading his own speeches. It is enough to scare anybody. (Laughter) (Applause)

But truly most Democrats and most Republicans and most Americans they have a belief that tomorrow must be better than today. That is the way we built this country, that is why we have a North Dakota and a South Dakota and a Montana and Colorado and Wyoming, these great States of the upper Midwest and the Rocky Mountains. It took strong men, men and women of faith.

These were not easy territories to move into, not easy areas in which to build communities and agriculture. But we knew we could do it. My father knew it, my grandfather knew it, on both sides of our family, and we went to work and did something about it.

Now the America of the future will have to consider its natural resources to be an irreplaceable property of all of the people. The human value of resource development has been demonstrated clearly in the Tennessee Valley where poverty and hopelessness have given way to regional prosperity and pride.

But the Goldwater Faction -- I say that because there are a lot of wonderful Republicans you know, there really are, and they ought not to be tagged with this fellow, I want them to know that we look to them for some help to save their party and to help save this country. (Applause)

Well, the leader of the Goldwater Faction, he has proposed to sell TVA, and I quote him, "Even if we could only get a dollar for it." I wonder on who he plans on selling it to at that price. It is a pretty good deal. Look into that.

I want to assure you that President Johnson and I are not

going to sell the TVA, (Applause) not going to sell it for any price, and we are not going to sell the Garrison Dam either (Applause) and we are not going to sell the Grand Coulee. We are not going to sell these big programs on our great and mighty rivers. We are going to do what I said, to develop these water resources for the American people.

Now the Senator from Arizona, of course, is not against all projects. He would like to have that billion dollar Central Arizona project in his own State. I want to compliment him. I believe in the Central Arizona project, too, but I also believe in the Missouri River Project and I believe in the Grand Coulee Project. (Applause)

Senator Goldwater's program for the rest of the country just adds up to exactly nothing.

The very first speech that I made in the United States Senate, which I suppose indicates some of the reasons that I got into some early difficulty in the Senate, because I did think as a Senator I ought to speak up for the people, and that speech was on March 2, 1949 and it was a speech for the development of the Missouri River, along with Jim Murray, and Guy Gillette of Iowa. (Applause) Let me say I would make the speech all over again, all over again (Applause) because I have lived in this area, and I know the importance of water, I know the importance of power, I know the importance of land reclamation and irrigation. I did not have to read about it in a book. I was here when the dust storms overcame us. I was here through the draught.

I watched our rivers dry up. I saw our crops destroyed, and I don't need to get any lectures from any Republican candidate about the evils of conservation and reclamation. I have heard all that nonsense before, and I know what America needs, at least this part of America, and that is the development and the conservation of its water, its land, its minerals, and its river resources. (Applause)

As a matter of fact, my friends, the leader of the Goldwaterites, if he had been President, 60 years ago they wouldn't have even had that Theodore Roosevelt Dam. That is the one, by the way, that made possible water for Arizona. In fact I don't think they would even have had the department store. There wouldn't have been enough business to have it. ((Laughter and Applause)

And surely there would then be no thriving, beautiful city

like Phoenix.

A revolution has taken place in the technology of water and power development, and I believe we have the responsibility to make this technological upheaval produce the greatest benefit to the American people.

Today we can do great things. We can produce pure water from the salty seas, and the Johnson-Humphrey Administration will devote the necessary money and manpower to achieve the economic breakthrough which lies just ahead of us, to achieve a program that will obtain cheap water as well as power water to benefit our arid west and the parched and dusty dessert dwellers in other parts of the world. Wouldn't that be a wonderful day when that was accomplished? (Applause)

Now, the transmission of cheap electrical power, over long distances by extra high voltage lines is now becoming a reality. It is no longer something that is discussed in just the printed page. We are building them. The personal leadership of President Johnson resulted in a Federal line between the Columbia Basin and California's Central Valley Project, and got the Pacific Northwest-Southwest intertie under way after 16 years of struggle in the Congress. Now, that is the kind of a President you need. (Applause)

And this is a "first" and what was done out there in the West Coast can be done here. Soon all of the major Federal power systems will be interconnected, and the Missouri Basin will benefit from power sales and exchanges which more fully utilize our resources.

Power pooling arrangements should be worked out and interconnections built wherever such projects can produce more dependable and lower cost power for the ultimate benefit of the American consumers. That is the way we ought to operate, and that is the kind of a policy that a government ought to support.

Low-cost power and reclamation of arid land often have been called the partners in the development of this great West. The new farms created by reclamation create new consumers for electricity, and the power revenues from reclamation dams helped to pay for the water which makes farming possible, and you will see, sooner see, such benefits right here in North Dakota if we can get that House of Representatives to go along with the Senate and approve the Garrison Diversion Project which your Senator right here, Senator

Burdick, and I want to be very fair, which the Republican, Senator Young, and which your distinguished Senator, your distinguished Governor Guy have worked for day in and day out and, may I say, that when the 89th Congress convenes, and President Johnson sends his program to that Congress, one of the items on that program will be to get the Garrison Diversion Project through and passed and signed and sealed and delivered. (Applause)

We know what this will do. It will give family farms a dependable water supply. It will make for diversification of our agriculture so we don't have to depend on just wheat or one crop and it will make for jobs for construction workers and jobs and revenue for home builders. It will help every businessman on Main Street. I think we have got to get this message to the people, my friends.

Those of us who have what we think are special interests, where a farmer, for example, is interested in a farm program or where someone is particularly interested in a reclamation or irrigation program, these programs don't benefit just the farmer or just the rancher. These programs benefit the entire nation. America is the richer today because of the great power projects that have been constructed. America is the richer today, and North Dakota is the richer today because of a wheat program and a feed grains program and, make no mistake about it, that had the vote of Barry Goldwater been the deciding vote in the Senate of the United States, the businessmen on the Main Street of Bismarck would be at the bank trying to borrow enough money to sustain themselves, and we would once again find this great upper Midwest and these Western States, these agricultural States impoverished.

And as one Senator and one spokesman for the American people I don't intend to let that happen. I lived through that once. That is enough. (Applause)

Now, as these ripples of prosperity spread, due to these many programs, they will create new payrolls for local banks to handle, new demands for construction equipment, and household appliances and furniture and automobiles, and added freight for the railroads and trucks to carry. This is the way you build in time, and a new reclamation project in the Dakotas or any place else will bring important long range benefits as well.

It will help keep our farm population stable. It will

help keep people in these areas.

Last night I spoke in Iowa and I pointed out we are losing much of our population in the center, the heartland of America to the great cities on the east and west and the Gulf States, and the Great Lakes ports, and we need to be able to keep North Dakota and Montana, yes, and Minnesota and South Dakota and Wyoming and Colorado and these other great States, we need to be able to keep them as viable economies and that means keeping the young here, the trained people here, the educated people here.

It means making it possible for people to earn a good living, and you get that done by developing your economy, by providing the power, and the energy and the capital that keeps people on the job in our own States, and that is what we are talking about when we talk about conservation of natural resources. (Applause)

Tomorrow and in days ahead, and that is where we need to look, more and more of our fellow citizens will live in what we now call rural America. As our cities continue to push outward in their endless search for living space, and these people cannot be expected to live in a rural America like that of 50 years ago or 25 years ago or even like that of yesterdays. That is why if you want an America that is progressive and prosperous, all of America should be and must be progressive and prosperous. You can't just have the wonders of the modern day in the big cities. You must have them all over America, and that is where your government comes into the partnership with the people to see to it that the blessings of science and technology and of industry, the blessings of education are available to everybody everywhere, everywhere and in every region of America and that is the kind of a program America needs. (Applause)

I want to assure you that the Federal Government must, and will, if Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey have anything to say about it, continue to place its weight behind the development of a better rural America, and behind a strong rural electrification program, with favorable financing and the strong encouragement of a rural electric cooperative has been the unaltered policy of the Democratic Party since Franklin Delano Roosevelt and it will be continued under Lyndon B. Johnson and Hubert Humphrey. (Applause)

These great rural electric cooperatives that have contributed immeasurably to the health and well-being of this

nation, and isn't it unbelievable almost that a United States Senator on 35 roll call votes where he had a chance to do something to strengthen REA voted wrong 33 times? I want to say he voted twice all right, those were for two projects in Arizona. (Applause)

I said down at Hot Springs, Arkansas, when Clyde had the group down there, there was a five-State conference, I believe it was, Clyde, that I wanted to be forgiving. I don't think one ought to charge the opposition with any bad motives, and I have a feeling that Mr. Goldwater found out that they had an extra large carryover inventory of kerosene lamps and naturally he got rid of those in the department store; he did not want to promote REA. Maybe what you folks ought to do is just buy them up and give them to Governor Guy here for the local museum. (Applause)

The rural electricians are so much a part now of our life, and they are taking the lead in helping to revitalize the industry and the economy of those areas of the nation where it most needs revitalizing, and they are working tirelessly at building heavier facilities, more modern facilities, to meet the ever growing demands of electricity in rural America, and sometimes I think people fail to understand that our farm people and our rural communities have new demands, greater demands, for electricity just exactly as people do in New York or San Francisco or Minneapolis, and these great REA cooperatives that have been self-sustaining, self-financing, that have this wonderful record of the promotion of the public good, they need now to be buttressed, to be strengthened, to be modernized and that is why the job of REA is not done.

We are at the Model-T stage. We need to go ahead now and modernize and bring up to date through the new improvements from technology and science our whole REA establishment, and a Democratic Administration will help you get that job done. (Applause)

Might I add that our REA's are doing something else besides helping rural people in America. They are helping rural people all over the world. Right now the REA, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and our own REA Administration through the Foreign Aid Program is helping people in Latin America, Central America, South America build rural electric cooperatives, and let me tell you, my dear friends, when you have free cooperatives, where people can really have a part in ownership, where they can run their own business as they do through a cooperative, you don't have Communism or collectivism. It is the answer in many ways

to this threat of the Communist Statist State. (Applause)

Now Americans will continue to have the right to decide for themselves what they want to do, whether they wish to provide electricity for themselves or a contract for service through their cities and towns with their private power companies. This freedom of choice will be jealously guarded. The goal of the Johnson-Humphrey administration will be to build a stronger economy by using God's bounty wisely and to develop our resources for the benefit of all our citizens and with this as our goal what should be our program, you have a right to know and I lay down this program of the Johnson-Humphrey administration.

First, to give firm federal leadership to the comprehensive development of our water resources. With only about 25 per cent of our hydroelectric potential developed we must move promptly towards the fuller development of our nation's great river systems.

Second, to implement the letter and the spirit of the long standing preference clause in the marketing of federal power, and President Johnson and I have given our firm support to this principle and we will continue to do so.

Third, to promote and encourage the use of advanced technology in the American power industry, keeping in mind always that the ultimate beneficiary of new techniques must be the American consumer. Large-scale generating stations, extra-high voltage transmission have opened up new vistas for more economic power production, and we will push forward plans to interconnect federal wholesale power systems which will insure that the customers of all utilities regardless of size or ownership will have the opportunity to participate in these benefits.

We will back Federal transmission lines where they are needed to provide abundant electricity at low cost, and to provide maximum return from Federal investment, and the common carrier concept should be included in the wheeling or exchange agreements with private companies providing wheeling service for the transmission of Federal power.

Our program then and our policy then is to aid and advance the cause of rural electrification. President Johnson and I believe in the REA program, we will encourage it, not eliminate it, and we will see that it brings a better life if we possibly can to millions of Americans throughout rural America, and we will carry forward the research and development needed to give

America a healthy atomic energy industry. We must experiment with new types of reactors, small as well as large, in order to give the consumer owned as well as the privately owned utilities a place in this program, and full federal responsibility must be exercised to assure the American people of the safety of these new power sources.

Our goal and our program is to hasten the day when cheap, pure water can be taken from the sea, and we will continue to expand our efforts to the desalting of water including research on the use of nuclear power for desalinization. I believe that this is one of the great promises of the future, and our goal is to encourage the development of the great lignite coal fields of the west as fuel for steam plants which will be part of regional power systems of the future, and here in the Missouri River Basin, we have seen the signing of the Missouri Basin Systems Pooling agreement, and this is but a pattern that can be followed in many other instances. Such agreements make feasible the generation of power from lignite coal in huge regional steam plants. We support this, and similar cooperative endeavors in other regions.

Finally, to follow the advice of Teddy Roosevelt who told us long ago to use every drop of water for the benefit of man as it travels from the mountains to the sea.

Oh, how I wish the temporary spokesman of the Republican Party, of a Faction of the Republican Party, would read the life and the works of Teddy Roosevelt, a progressive Republican. How I wish he would. (Applause)

No where in this nation is there a group of more progressive, solidly American, forward-looking citizens than I see assembled here today. No other group shares more of my hopes and dreams for the future of our great nation.

You are attending this water and power conference because you care, you care about the development of your America, and of America's water resources. You are attending it because you believe that such development is critically needed to provide job opportunities for our young people, and opportunity, my friends, repeated again and again, opportunity must be the watchword and the key word of American life; more opportunity for more people, everything to be done to provide opportunity for people to help themselves and to make themselves a better life. You are attending this conference to invigorate rural communities, and to keep this west, this great heartland of America, prosperous and productive.

I want to salute you. You are really the front line soldiers in this battle for the development of this great America of ours, this great heartland that offers such promise, and I want to assure you that I am here today for exactly the same reasons that you are here, and I wish you success. And I say to you that President Lyndon Johnson wishes you success, and he asks you to help him bring about the fulfillment of the goals of the programs and the policies that I have set forth before you today, and if you will help him, if you will give him your hands and your hearts, if you will give him some of your time and some of your commitment to a better America in these weeks ahead, we will have a future, the likes of which no other people has ever dreamed of, and it will be our future for our children and for generations yet to come.

Thank you, very much. (Applause)

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