

FILE

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
BROCK ADAMS, INSPECTING LOCK AND DAM 26, ALTON, ILLINOIS,
NOVEMBER 29, 1978.

THIS IS NOT MY FIRST VISIT TO THE ST. LOUIS AREA
OR TO LOCK AND DAM 26. IN FACT, I AM GETTING TO KNOW
THE TERRITORY PRETTY WELL.

THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE LOCK AND
DAM SYSTEM HERE, WHICH CANNOT HANDLE THE PRESENT TRAFFIC
EFFICIENTLY AND IS CLEARLY INADEQUATE FOR THE FUTURE,
HAS BEEN A MATTER OF DEBATE FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS.

WE THOUGHT THAT ISSUE WAS SETTLED LAST MONTH WHEN CONGRESS APPROVED A WATERWAY USER TAX AND, AS A PART OF THAT LEGISLATION, \$420 MILLION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THIS FACILITY. BUT, AS YOU KNOW, THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DELAYED AGAIN BECAUSE OF A COURT ACTION BROUGHT BY THE RAILROADS AND A NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS.

I HOPE TO SEE THIS DISPUTE SETTLED QUICKLY.
I WAS ENCOURAGED BY JUDGE RICHEY'S REMARKS IN U.S.
DISTRICT COURT IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK, TO THE EFFECT
THAT HE WOULD PRESS FOR A PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THE
LITIGATION.

TO ASSIST THAT OBJECTIVE, MEETINGS ALREADY HAVE BEEN HELD BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUIT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, AND WE WILL BE TALKING IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WHICH IS HANDLING THE SUIT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION. WE, TOO, WANT TO SEE THE MATTER SETTLED WITH A MINIMUM OF DELAY.

OUR INLAND WATERWAYS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMERCE, TO OUR ENERGY CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND TO OUR TRANSPORTATION PROGRESS. THE TIMELY REPLACEMENT OF THIS CROSSROADS FACILITY IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO THOSE WHO USE WATER TRANSPORTATION TO MOVE AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER PRODUCTS INTO AND THROUGH MID-AMERICA.

FINALLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMY OF THIS REGION. THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WILL PROVIDE AN ESTIMATED 4,500 JOBS OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD, AND A NEW LOCK AND DAM WILL BRING ADDED EMPLOYMENT AND GREATER GROWTH TO THE WATER-RELATED INDUSTRIES IN THE ST. LOUIS AREA.

I APPRECIATE ALL THE WORK THE CORPS HAS DONE ALREADY,
IN ASSESSING THE SITUATION HERE AND DETERMINING THE SCOPE
OF THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT THE
QUESTIONS BEFORE THE COURT WILL BE RESOLVED SPEEDILY AND
SATISFACTORILY SO THAT THIS PROJECT CAN MOVE AHEAD.

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