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Plain
Senator Mike Mansfield (D. Montana)

May 15, 1958

Welcoming Speech
45th National Convention of the
National Rivers and Harbors Congress

It is inddeed a pleasure to be here this morning and I bring to all of you the greetings of the Senate of the United States for a most successful 45th Convention of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress.

During this session of Congress the House and Senate Have given considerable time and deliberation to the best and most immediate means of combating the recession which has engulfed the Nation. The Rivers and Harbors Congress has and can continue to do a great job in helping to meet this challenge through its efforts in behalf of water resource development. This Nation's water resources are now recognized for their worth and if this value is to be fully realized it will require a coordinated plan of development and protection.

President Overton Brooks and Executive Vice President William H. Webb are to be highly commended for effective guidance and counsel in developing our water resources.

The public works programs being considered by Congress as anti-recession measures ~~XXXX~~ flood control, rivers and harbors construction, watershed programs, water-pollution control, and reclamation, all of vital concern to you folks.

Water requirements for this country will be much greater, *in the future* than they are today. Water use for domestic and industrial purposes has increased 50 percent in the past 10 years. ~~XXX~~ ~~MX~~ In many areas supply has not kept pace with the demand and this problem will ~~be~~ become more difficult in the next few years.

Rivers and harbors projects are naturals ~~XXXXXXX~~ in any anti-recession program, they provide employment, they provide

a stabilizing influence on local economy and provide multi-purpose benefits. The continued growth of our population and the expansion of industry along our waterways are intensifying flood, stream-pollution and power problems. This organization can be inestimable value in assisting the Federal Government and the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ individual states in meeting these numerous problems. We know that our natural wealth is not endless and this organization has helped and will continue to help guide the policy of the Government in water-resource development.

I do not want to appear to be preoccupied with construction of power project and navigation ~~XXXXX~~ projects for^lfully realize the attainment of our goals in water resource development will require a variety of conservation practices. Among^l these is the prevention and control of water pollution and the regulation of runoffs to even out stream^l flows. In addition, we must give consideration to the preservation of our recreation facilities.

I would like to comment briefly on the international aspects of America's water resource development. ~~XX~~ It is not news to anyone here that the nations of the free world are not only competing with the Communist world on military and ideological basis but we ^{we} ~~we~~ also competing with the Soviet Union and her satellites for industrial supremacy, which has definite ~~XXXX~~ relationship with the development of rivers^l and waterways for power and navigation.

In the past year several startling reports have been ^lissued in the ~~XXXXXXXXX~~ Senate pointing up the tremendous progress made in the Soviet Union ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ on the development of their^{water}/resources.

A report issued by the Senate Committee on Interior indicated that Russia and China are driving forward river and water resource development programs that are overtaking those of the United States.

After ^{Allen}~~Senator~~ Ellender, ^{the Senior Senator from Louisiana,} returned from his most recent trip to the Soviet Union he stated that "As a result of my inspection of installations in Russia I am convinced that in water transportation and hydroelectric power development they are inching ahead of us and in some areas of the tooling industry they are very close to our own standards."

✓ /~~Mr~~ Henry Jackson, the junior Senator from Washington made a trip to the Soviet Union in 1957 and he reported that he was ~~XXXXXX~~ particularly impressed by the Soviet advance in the field of hydroelectric power--"one of ~~XXX~~ the vital bases for industrial growth and strength. Senator Jackson inspected a dam at Stalingrad on the Volga River, which, when completed in the near future, will have a generating capacity of 2,310,000 kilowatts--far greater than that produced at Grand Coulee Dam. The Soviet Union already has in operation at Kuibyshev on the ~~XXX XXXX~~ Volga a dam larger than Grand Coulee. It is the world's largest single producer of hydroelectric power. Its generating capacity is 2,100,000 kilowatts.

^{is} This ~~only~~ a small sample of what the Russians are doing in the field of water resource development. ~~XX~~ They have made phenomenal progress in recent years. They have not accomplished what we have in this country with free enterprise, but we cannot be overconfident.

We must go on to greater things in the field of water resource development, so that we can maintain ^{this} ~~our~~ leadership. We cannot do this standing still and the Rivers & Harbors Congress can be ~~a~~ instrumental in seeing that we maintain this lead.

I was indeed sorry that the President saw fit to veto the omnibus Rivers and Harbors bill. Over 90 percent of the projects

were approved in Federal government surveys & studies

The bill included many
 included in this general authorization measure. ~~There were many~~
~~XXXX~~ Army Engineer projects of vital importance to every ~~part~~ section
 of the country, flood control projects, harbor projects and
~~XXXX~~ multi-purpose power projects.

This legislation has been referred ~~XXX~~ back to the Senate
 the Committee will
 Committee on Public Works and I am confident that ~~XXXXXX~~
 recommend that the Congress override the Presidential veto. An
 additional years delay in authorizing these projects will have
 grave ~~XX~~ consequences, especially at this time when stimulants and
 new sources of employment are so badly needed.

The Rivers and Harbors ~~X~~Congress is nearing its half century
 of service to the Nation in preserving and developing ~~XXXX~~ our
 water resources. Water has been taken for granted for far too many
 years and largely through the efforts of this organization we in
 America are ~~XXX~~ becoming ~~aware of~~ water conscious, a major factor
 in the growth of the United States.

The Senate is truly indebted to the Rivers and Harbors Congress
 for its advise and counsel. ~~and~~ Majority Leader ~~/~~ Lyndon Johnson and
~~my~~ my ~~colleagues~~ colleague, the senior Senator from Montana, James E.
 Murray and the entire membership of the Senate join me in welcoming
 the Rivers & Harbors Congress to the Nation's Capitol.