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Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Statement of Senator Mansfield - Public Works Appropriation Bill - 1970" (1969). *Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews*. 796.

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D.-Montana)

November 12, 1969

PUBLIC WORKS APPROPRIATION BILL, 1970

Mr. President, the Public Works Appropriation Bill now before us is often labeled as a package of special interest and pork barrel projects.

To the people of Montana, it means a great deal in the way of natural resource development. This year, I am very pleased with the action of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. There is very little fat, and it provides funds for an orderly continuation of these important flood control, power, irrigation, and other resource development projects.

In the instance of Montana, I am delighted that the Committee has provided an additional 4.1 million dollars for construction at the Libby Dam project in Northwestern Montana. The \$52,600,000 recommended is necessary to keep this project on schedule. This is one Corps of Army Engineers project which cannot be slowed down or held up for budget reasons. Libby Dam and Reservoir project has a tight schedule because of the Columbia River Treaty. The project must be completed within a five year period and, in order to meet this deadline, we cannot permit a slow down.

I also was very pleased that both the House and Senate have recommended \$400,000 to proceed with the initial construction on the flood control project at Great Falls, Montana. This project cannot be held up any longer because each year brings another threat of a disastrous flood similar to those which have plagued sections of Montana's largest city. The Bureau of Reclamation has been very active in Montana, and I

believe that the program outlined in the revised budget and as approved by the House of Representatives is an orderly continuation of these programs.

The Bureau of Reclamation will have an active year on smaller construction projects in Montana. \$1,300,000 is provided for additional facilities and cleanup work at the Yellowtail Dam, the recently completed power and recreation facility in Southeastern Montana. There are several construction items under the Bureau's Drainage and Minor Construction program to which I would like to refer:

Crow Creek Pump Unit	\$ 11,000
East Bench Unit	336,000
Helena Valley	270,000
Lower Marias Unit	310,000
Buffalo Rapids Unit	30,000

I have already referred to the allocation for the Great Falls-Browning transmission line, and in closing, I would like to compliment the Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Works Appropriations for his leadership in recommending a fully authorized appropriation of one billion dollars for construction grants under the Water Pollution Control Program. At long last, the people of the United States are becoming very conscious of our environment and of the threats to it. Our cities and towns are finding it very difficult to up-date their facilities to meet existing standards. The Federal Government has a real responsibility aiding in the construction of waste treatment works. The increase recommended by the Senate Committee will give Montana approximately double that indicated under the program as recommended by the Administration's revised budget. I understand that if the one billion dollars is approved, it will mean \$5,751,469, perhaps an insignificant amount under the total authorization, but it will mean considerable to my State.