

REMARKS

Gov Breathitt

Rev. Henry

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

BARKLEY DAM DEDICATION

PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

AUGUST 20, 1966

Chr. Edwin Parson

It is good to be back in Barkley country.

It is especially good to share this platform with so

many people who had so much to do with making this project
a reality -- I mean my old friend Senator Earle Clements,
who introduced the resolution to name this dam after Alben
Barkley . . . I mean Frank Stubblefield and Noble Gregory . . .
and Bill Natcher, who saved this project on the floor of the
House of Representatives when it was endangered . There are
many here today who worked hard to make this project a reality
-- and there are others, too, from other states, such as my

friend Senator Ross Bass of Tennessee who, as a Congressman,

lent his efforts to the cause ~~and so did~~ Senator Albert Gore.

and the late and respected Senator
Estes Kefauver. Then to Senator

John Sherman Cooper & Houston Moore
and many others

Sen. Johnson
Sen. Cassidy
Col. Lee
Sen. Cooper
Sen. Morton
Sen. Clements
Cong. Stubblefield

David Barkley
Mrs. Truitt (Marion)
Mrs. McArthur
(Wah-Wee)

When I came to Washington as a young first-term Senator -- eager to change the world and sure I could do it all in that first term -- I came to know and have a deep respect for Alben Barkley. I'm a Barkley fan!

Vice President Barkley was a man of principle who often as not would disguise the depth of his feeling in the telling of a joke or story which made his point, and made it palatable.

many of
Many of his stories were about Paducah and the people of this area -- including Judge Bishop, Irvin Cobb, and others whose names I can't remember now, but heard often then.

< I felt a great affection and respect for Vice President Barkley, ~~then~~. And, that affection and respect have grown even more, I must admit, since I have come to the office of Vice President.

< Most of you know that Alben Barkley died while addressing an audience of young people at Washington and Lee University.

< His last words -- spoken in one of those dramatic moments that sometimes lead one to believe that life imitates art -- were a summation of his entire career.

He said: "I would rather be a servant in the house of the Lord than sit in the seats of the mighty . . . "

*The legitimate object of
Government is the happiness
and well-being of the people.*

- 3 -

The idea of being a public servant, of doing service for the people, was the guiding light by which Alben Barkley set his course in the world.

↳ In over 40 years of public office in both houses of Congress and as Vice President, he stood by his course.

In a career which extended from the Wilson Administration to the Eisenhower Administration, he was always willing to call himself, without equivocation, a liberal.

↳ He stood for the principle that ^{the} power and wealth of America should serve all our citizens.

↳ He stood up to those who would reward the few at the expense of the many.

↳ More than 30 years ago he fought so that the poor ^{people} would not lose their money if the banks they trusted failed.

Fed. Deposit Insurance

↳ He worked to see that farmers could get credit at decent rates without mortgaging their futures *and fair farm prices*
(*The Friend of Agriculture*)

↳ He was instrumental in causing the federal government to help local communities build highways and develop their waterpower.

↳ In the Great Depression he fought as Senate Majority Leader for those changes which allowed men to get on their feet even while the country was on its knees. He fought for social security and TVA. And he was among those few of us who called 20 years ago for a Medicare program.

↳ Alben Barkely was a man who saw far ahead at home and in the world. ↳ He helped carry to the country the need for the Marshall Plan. And, in the frigid depths of the cold war, he had the vision to write this:

"Without for a moment ever relaxing in our determination to keep our powder dry, we must continue to strive to reach an honorable understanding with the Soviet Union. Because

of Russia's present attitude there is no easy solution for this problem, but we should never cease trying, for the pulverization of cities -- and I mean American cities as well as Russian cities -- under the impact of hydrogen bombs is not an easy solution either. If we cannot obtain an agreement for the abolition of atomic weapons in time of war, we should continue to strive for an enforceable agreement for world-wide regulation and inspection of the production and use of atomic energy."

There were only a few of us who stood with him then for control of nuclear power. The people who called themselves "realists" said that it was useless to work toward any change in the Soviet Union.

But there was a change in the Kremlin, and the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed. (And one of my great moments in public life was the privilege of being present at that signing.)

I believe what Alben Barkley wrote about the Soviet Union might well be applied to Communist China today.

We see no sign of moderation in the present Communist Chinese government. Yet, we do know that there are millions of people in China with reason for friendship with us.

I say that -- just as we did with the Soviet Union -- we must continue not only to keep our powder dry, but also to try, try and try to build peaceful bridges to Communist China so that disaster may be averted.

We may not be able to see it clearly today. But, if we ~~while continuing to keep our powder dry,~~ keep trying, the time may come when Communist China may recognize that a policy of moderation is in its own interest.

~~I do not think~~ ^{not} we should be afraid today -- as Alben Barkley was not afraid in the early 1950's -- to take the extra step which might lead to peace.

It has always been my hope that Alben Barkley might be remembered ^{my} not as the master political campaigner or the master story-teller, but ^{also} as a man of courage and principle. He believed, above all, in the principle that we in our powerful nation should be the first to take initiative for peace.

Another of the principles Alben Barkley believed in was that the natural resources of this country should serve the people. He felt the great rivers of this country should be sources of wealth and well-being, not of destruction and fear.

The names of our American rivers read like poetry to anyone who knows and loves this country -- the Ohio, Cumberland, Susquehanna, Tennessee, Hudson, Missouri, Mississippi and scores of others.

↓
TVA Breathed new life into the economy.

(1) reclaimed 80,000 sq miles
from devastations of Man + Nature

(2) Erosion has been halted

(3) Farm methods have been
modernized

(4) Per capita income rapidly
rising.

(5) Forests have been planted

(6) Flooding rivers have been
Tamed

(7) new recreation area for Millions
of people. The Tennessee Valley
now has 600,000 acres of Water
surface and more than
10,000 miles of shoreline

where our families can go and play and
enjoy fresh air & Sun.

Yet these great rivers were once -- and still are, in many places -- something to be feared as they rose over their banks flooding farms, filling streets and basements, destroying property and life. They swept past cities without means of power, past houses lit by kerosene lanterns.

Alben Barkley and others helped to change that. They set in motion the projects by which these rivers were put to work for human purposes -- building dams to hold the waters back . . . using those waters to make electricity to light the darkened countryside . . . ^{Providing} ~~giving~~ power to industries and creating year-round waterways over which barges could move with raw materials and finished goods.

The Tennessee Valley was developed so that all these benefits -- and new recreational benefits as well -- could be brought to an entire region. *(The Barkley dam will add to these many benefits.)*

This dam will generate enough electricity to supply a good-sized city.

This Great Tennessee Valley Region
is the living spirit of the
New America - the America
of progress and opportunity for all.
In Paducah, the Atomic Energy Comm.
operates one of its largest atomic
fuel plants - which will
contribute to the expanding
peacetime development of
electric power -

Recreation
Within 500
miles of
this DAM
80, million
People

The 118-mile lake it will create on the Cumberland will be linked with ^{the} Tennessee, multiplying the value of each system. The boating and fishing should be great. Here will be another link in making a great resource serve you in your daily lives. — New Industries, Jobs, Wealth
Business, Pleasure.

We shall continue to develop our rivers to meet our many needs. This development is a model for the nation.

~~Yes~~, what we see here before us today can give us a much wider hope. (X)

↳ The methods of regional growth which are so fruitful here in our country can be employed, with the right changes, elsewhere in the world. The great river systems of the world can and should be developed for the benefit of mankind.

Imagine a time in which the Amazon, the Nile, the Congo, the Ganges -- even at the proper moment the Yangtze -- might contribute their enormous wealth and energies to the world. In these great rivers are the waters of peace + progress.

∟ A great deal of the world's attention is now focused on the Mekong River in Southeast Asia. ∟ Its development would provide food, energy, transport, to the entire region. ^{Here is} ~~Conflict~~ ^{the hope for peace} over scarce materials could be supplanted by cooperation in developing and creating new wealth.

∟ It is hard to convince people to beat their swords into plowshares unless arable land is available.

∟ In all past history some people and places have stood in the sunshine of prosperity while others have remained in the darkness of poverty. This has been considered as inevitable, when it has been considered at all.

∟ Here in America we are determined that poverty shall not be inevitable -- that all our people shall have a chance to live a freer, happier, richer life.

∟ We are determined that some places and ^{Some} people in America should not be left behind while our country as a whole moves ahead to new well-being and prosperity.

And we have accepted that principle that Alben Barkley fought for over so many years: That it should be part of the responsibility of government to help create a balanced national prosperity.

Finally, as we celebrate this dedication, I think we would do well to share once more with each other the vision that Alben Barkley set forth in his autobiography some 12 years ago:

"If every river valley . . . could be developed as the Tennessee Valley has been," he said, "with similar results, the standard of life throughout the nation would be immensely advanced.

"I should like to see every American family living in a comfortable home, and every American child born and reared in an atmosphere sufficiently wholesome to guarantee

an even chance for health and intellectual and moral development consonant with the responsibilities of American citizenship.

"I should like to live to see the world at peace where the inventive genius of man would be utilized to improve the conditions of life throughout the world. I should like to live to see the pledge of every nation respected by every other nation because it was made in good faith and observed to the letter.

"I should like to live to see the day when religious and racial bigotry and intolerance would give way to the universal recognition of the rights of every man and woman regardless of race, creed, or color.

↳ "These ideals may constitute Utopian dreams. But if civilization is to be preserved mankind must seek their consummation."

This is a large vision indeed. But it is a vision we
as Americans can have the courage to hold, as Alben Barkley
held it. And, if we hold to our vision, who is to say it
cannot be achieved? — It can be &

will be — #####
because we know what
Lincoln knew —

~~Our~~ America is the
last best hope on
Earth "

① Pour water — mixing waters of Cumberland
& Tennessee Rivers through
Barkley Canal

Then invert the Plaque
officially dedicating
~~then the~~ Barkley Dam Project
to Boat with whistle

ADDRESS and DEDICATION

of

BARKLEY DAM PROJECT

--

HUBERT HORATIO HUMPHREY

Vice President
of the
United States

--

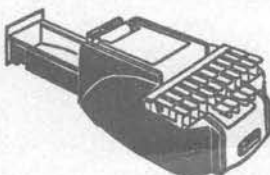
Barkley Dam, Kentucky
11:00 a.m.
August 20, 1966

Reported By:

Howard M. Hudson

Prepared For:

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS - NASHVILLE



WELLS and HUDSON
COURT REPORTERS 1110 STAHLMAN BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
255-2736



P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. CLEMENTS: Mr. Chairman, Governor Breathitt, Governor Clement, soon-to-be Governor Ellington, Distinguished Members of the House and Senate, particularly I want to call your attention to the sister of Alben Barkley who is on the front row, and to his son and daughter, who are on my right, Mrs. Truitt and David Barkley.

(Applause)

To all of us visitors in Kentucky today -- and I will say distinguished guests, and that covers you all -- the dedication today at this great project for flood control, power, navigation, and recreational purposes, built for the service of this and future generations, symbolizes the life of Alben Barkley far more than any ordinary monument carved from stone or from any other substance.

This is because Alben Barkley's public service covered a period of fifty years dedicated to the benefit of his fellow man. A no more fitting selection could have been made to dedicate Barkley Lake and Dam than our speaker, who was Senator Barkley's friend as a member of the Senate and shared the philosophy that brought them so close together during their association through the years.

Our dedicatory speaker has had varied experiences. Like this District's able Congressman, he was once a druggist,

1 and, I am told, a good one. He has been a professor of po-
2 litical science; a young mayor of the great City of Minneapolis;
3 he was a member of the United States Senate from 1949 to
4 1965. In these assignments he has followed a philosophy of
5 government similar to that of the distinguished late citi-
6 zen of Paducah. He again follows the path of Barkley as the
7 presiding officer of the United States Senate.

8 It is a rare privilege for me to present the
9 speaker to dedicate this living memorial to Alben W. Barkley,
10 who was beloved by all Americans and affectionately known
11 and given the title by a young man who is here today as
12 "the Veep."

13 Ladies and gentlemen, the Vice President of the
14 United States.

15 (Applause)

16 * * * * *

17
18 VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you; thank you.
19 Thank you, Senator Earle Clements, my very good and close friend.

20 Reverend Henry, Colonel Dorland and Edwin Paxton,
21 who has served with such distinction as chairman of these
22 ceremonies and this dedicatory event; distinguished Governors
23 of Kentucky and Tennessee, Governor Breathitt, Governor
24 Clement; and that very distinguished former Governor, Governor
25 Ellington, General Cassidy, and my fellow members of the

WELLS AND HUDSON

VIRGINIA K. WELLS

STAHLMAN BUILDING

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

HOWARD M. HUDSON

1 Congress of the United States -- because once you have 'served
2 in that body you always feel that you are a member of that
3 honorable fraternity -- we are very proud and pleased today to
4 have here, as has already been presented to you, your two dis-
5 tinguished Senators from Kentucky, Senator Morton and Senator
6 John Sherman Cooper. And we have from our neighboring State
7 of Tennessee distinguished Senator Ross Bass. From the State
8 of Indiana, Senator Vance Hartke. And of course the members
9 of the Congress from Kentucky and Tennessee and Illinois. We
10 have your own Congressman Stubblefield, fellow druggist,
11 fine distinguished servant; Congressman Natcher; Congressman
12 Evins; Congressman Fulton; Congressman Farnsley, all of whom
13 have been introduced to you, and Congressman Ken Gray from
14 Southern Illinois.

15 I mention these dear and good friends because they
16 have given so much to make this day possible, and each of them
17 in their own measure and their own way deserve our thanks
18 and our appreciation.

19 And I take this opportunity as your Vice President
20 to salute each and every one and to express a nation's grati-
21 tude for their vision and for their sense of public service.

22 You know, there are several things that I do
23 want to mention in a very neighborly manner. Just as my
24 good friend Earle Clements was speaking here, he mentioned
25 the Barkley family. And I love to see them. Every time I

1 see any one of them -- including this new young Alben that
2 we have here -- I feel just a little better. As long as the
3 name of Barkley is a part of the history of this country, the
4 living history, I think America is just that much better off.

5 And I wish that Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, Jr., could
6 have been with us today. You know her as "Wahwee," and so do
7 I. But it was impossible for her to be here. I had hoped
8 that she might join us. But Mrs. Truitt is with us, and we
9 have had a delightful, delightful time.

10 I remember the day I came to Paducah. I wanted
11 to come to Paducah. I asked to come to Paducah. I don't
12 know whether Paducah wanted me or not, but I wanted to come.

13 (Applause)

14 Because to me, Paducah, Kentucky, represented a
15 very important historical shrine and city in American public
16 life. It's the home of Alben Barkley, and to me Alben Barkley
17 is one of America's greatest citizens.

18 The Vice President's office -- this Vice Presi-
19 dent's office -- has prominently displayed a photograph and
20 a large one of the beloved Veep, Alben Barkley. He's right
21 in the front office, and he always will be as long as I am
22 Vice President of the United States.

23 (Applause)

24 Now, over to your right and my left are three
25 groups of young people, and they have been doing yeoman

1 service here today. They have been entertaining us with
2 their music. There are three bands from Trigg County, and Liv-
3 ington and Lyon. And these are the three counties, of course,
4 that border upon Lake Barkley.

5 I have been up there talking to these young
6 Kentuckians about how the fishing's going to be. And, coming
7 from Minnesota, I felt I had a right to give them a little
8 expert counsel. But this lake -- these two lakes -- put
9 Minnesota's lakes, I am afraid, in the minor leagues when it
10 comes to size and when it comes to lake shore.

11 As I begin these ceremonies, may I say that
12 Barkley Canal is now officially open, that two-mile canal;
13 and the flotilla of boats, if they can hear my voice down
14 there, can begin their trip from Kentucky Lake to Barkley
15 Lake.

16 This is the first canal connecting two major
17 rivers in the United States. So let the boats go through,
18 because from here on out they will be going through there
19 by the thousands. And tomorrow I understand that you will
20 have the Admirals' Picnic, and at least a thousand boats or
21 more will be here to celebrate this great recreational fa-
22 cility.

23 The Admirals, as you know, represent a very
24 powerful force in this vast area of America for the develop-
25 ment of our water resources. I have just become an Admiral

1 by the good graces of Governor Breathitt, and I have also
2 been honored by becoming a Kentucky Colonel. I don't know
3 what more Kentucky can do for me than they have done. I want
4 to thank him very much.

5 (Applause)

6 Well, you know, it is good to be back in Barkley
7 Country. It is especially good to share this platform with
8 so many, many people who have had so much to do with making
9 this project a reality. And I mean in particular the man
10 who has already been heralded here, your good former Senator
11 and great citizen, Earle Clements -- because, as your programs
12 note and as your press has noted, it was Earle Clements who
13 introduced the resolution to name this dam after Alben Barkley.
14 And it was Earle Clements who led the struggle in the Congress
15 of the United States on that Senate side to make sure that this
16 project today would be a reality.

17 I want also -- (Applause) Oh, yes, Earle deserves
18 that. And I want also to join in that list of heroes Frank
19 Stubblefield. Frank has already been here with you. And
20 Noble Gregory, Bill Natcher, who saved this project on the
21 floor of the House of Representatives when it was endangered.
22 In fact, every member of the Congress that is here today
23 pitched in and helped make this a reality.

24 There are many here today who worked hard; and
25 there are others, too, from other states, names unlisted.

1 For example, one that I could list is my friend Ross Bass,
2 who is here, who as a Congressman did a good deal to be help-
3 ful. And who could forget the late and beloved Senator Estes
4 Kefauver? He too took a hand, as did Senator Albert Gore and
5 John Sherman Cooper here and Thruston Morton and many others.

6 You know, when I came to Washington as a young
7 first-term Senator my hero, then and now, was and is Alben
8 Barkley. And I came there eager to change the world, as many
9 of you know. And I was sure I could do it all in my first
10 term.

11 I regret that I wasn't quite able to accomplish
12 that, but I came to have a deep and an abiding respect for
13 that man of mature judgment and unbelievable wisdom, Alben
14 Barkley.

15 Vice President Barkley was a man of principle
16 who, often as not, would disguise the depth of his conviction
17 and feeling in the telling of a good joke or a story which
18 made his point and made it more palatable.

19 And I hope you friends of Kentucky are keeping a
20 good record of those Barkley stories. America needs to have
21 someone who can bring it back to good humor on occasion. And
22 just as we miss the late Will Rogers, we miss Alben Barkley,
23 someone that could just relieve that tension for a moment and
24 yet at the same time bring us a message.

25 Now, many of his stories, of course, were about

1 Paducah and the people of that area; and they included Judge
2 Bishop and Irvin Cobb and other names that I can't even remem-
3 ber now. I felt, as you know, a great affection and respect
4 for him; and that affection and respect have grown even more,
5 I must admit, since I came to the office of Vice President.

6 Most of you know that Alben Barkley died while
7 addressing an audience of young people at Washington and Lee
8 University. Alben Barkley was a man that never grew old.
9 He had in his heart the breath of spring -- always young.
10 He wanted to be with young people. And his last words,
11 spoken in one of those dramatic moments that sometimes lead
12 one to believe that life imitates art, were a summation of
13 his entire career. He said: "I would rather be a servant in
14 the House of the Lord than sit in the seats of the mighty."
15 And then the Lord claimed him.

16 The idea of being a public servant, the idea of
17 doing service for the people, was the guiding light by which
18 Alben Barkley set his course in this world. In over forty
19 years of public life, in both the offices of Congress and
20 Vice President, he steered a steady course and stood by it.
21 In a career which extended from the Wilson Administration through
22 the Administrations of President Eisenhower, he was always
23 willing to call himself without equivocation a progressive, a
24 liberal.

25 He stood for the principle that the power and

1 the wealth of America should serve all of its citizens. He
2 stood up to those who would reward the few against the expense
3 of the many. And for more than thirty years he fought so that
4 the people would not lose their money in the banks if those
5 banks should fail. He, like others, stood by the people.

6 He worked to see that farmers could get credit
7 at decent rates and that they could have fair prices. He
8 was instrumental in causing the Federal Government to help
9 local communities build highways like you see here and de-
10 velop their water resources and water power.

11 In the great depression he fought as Senate
12 Majority Leader for those changes which allowed men to get
13 on their feet even while this nation was on its knees. He
14 fought for Social Security. He fought for TVA. And these
15 phrases are but another way of saying "Barkley."

16 And he was among the few who called twenty years
17 ago for a program of hospital and medical care for our elderly,
18 called Medicare.

19 Alben Barkley was a man who saw far ahead of the
20 world and of the time in which he lived. He helped carry to
21 the country the need of our participation in international
22 affairs -- the Marshall Plan. And in the frigid depths of
23 the cold war, when it looked as if this nation and Russia
24 might come into conflict, he had the vision to write this,
25 and I repeat these words for you:

1 "Without for a moment," said Barkley, "ever
2 relaxing in our determination to keep our powder dry, we must
3 continue to strive to reach an honorable understanding with
4 the Soviet Union. Because of Russia's present attitude there
5 is no easy solution for this problem, but we should never,
6 never cease trying, for the pulverization of our cities, and
7 I mean American cities as well as Russian cities, under the
8 impact of hydrogen bombs is not an easy solution either."

9 And Barkley went on to say:

10 "If we cannot obtain an agreement for the abo-
11 lition of atomic weapons in the time of war, we should con-
12 tinue to strive for an enforceable agreement for world-wide
13 regulation and inspection of the production and the use of
14 atomic energy."

15 Alben Barkley, a prophet. There were only a
16 few of us who stood with him for the control of nuclear power.
17 The people who called themselves realists said that it was
18 useless to work towards any change with the Soviet Union.

19 But there was a change, some change, in the
20 Kremlin. And the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1963.
21 And it was one of the happy moments of my public life to be
22 able to be one of the group that went to Moscow for the sign-
23 ing of that Treaty.

24 I believe what Alben Barkley wrote about the
25 Soviet Union can give us hope today. It might well be

1 applied to another Communist power that has militancy and
2 aggressive designs -- Communist China. We see no sign of
3 moderation in the present Communist Chinese Government. Yet
4 you and I know that there are millions of people in China
5 today who have reason for friendship with us.

6 I say that, just as we did with the Soviet Union,
7 we must of course keep our powder dry, but we must also try,
8 try, try, as Alben Barkley said, to find a way to build bridges
9 for better understanding.

10 Now, we may not be able to see it clearly today,
11 but if we do keep trying, I predict the time may come when
12 Communist China may recognize that a policy of moderation,
13 of live and let live, is in its own interest. Barkley had
14 that vision less than twenty years ago about a militant Com-
15 munist power in Europe. Let some of us try to have that same
16 vision today.

17 It has always been my hope that Alben Barkley
18 might be remembered not only as the master campaigner -- and
19 that he was -- or the master story-teller, but as a man of
20 courage and of vision and of principle, because he believed
21 above all in the principle that we in this powerful nation
22 should be the first to take the initiative for peace.

23 Alben Barkley was a man of peace, and this great
24 project today is dedicated to the good life, to the life of
25 peace.

1 Another of the principles of Alben Barkley was
2 that the natural resources of this country should serve all
3 of the people. He felt the great rivers of this country
4 should be sources of wealth, of happiness, and of well-being,
5 and not of destruction and of fear.

6 The names of our American rivers read like
7 poetry to anyone who knows and loves this country: The
8 Ohio, the Cumberland, the Susquehanna, the Tennessee, the
9 Missouri, the Mississippi, the Hudson, and scores of others.
10 They are the history of America.

11 Yet these great rivers, all of them, were once --
12 and many of them still are -- something to be feared as they
13 rose over their banks flooding farms, filling streets and
14 basements, destroying property and life. They swept past
15 cities without means of power and they swept past farm homes
16 lit by kerosene lanterns.

17 Alben Barkley and others helped to change that.
18 They set in motion the projects by which these rivers were
19 put to work for human resources -- building dams to hold the
20 waters back, using those waters to make electricity to
21 light the darkened countryside, providing power to industries
22 and creating year-round waterways over which barges could
23 travel with raw materials and finished goods.

24 The Tennessee Valley -- of which you are so
25 proud -- was developed so that all of these benefits and the

1 many new recreational benefits as well could be brought to
2 an entire region. The TVA -- as President Johnson said only
3 recently in signing new legislation to expand this great
4 development -- breathed new life into the economy, reclaimed
5 over eighty thousand square miles from devastations of man
6 and nature.

7 Erosion has been halted. Per capita income rises
8 rapidly. Forests have been planted. Flooding rivers have
9 been tamed. And wonderful new recreation areas for millions
10 and millions of the American people.

11 I have been told that these two great lakes,
12 Kentucky Lake and Barkley Lake, are within -- if you draw a
13 circle around them and extend its radius five hundred miles,
14 over eighty million people are within that circle -- eighty
15 million.

16 These are the people's lakes. These belong to
17 the men and women of the villages and the towns and the
18 cities and the workers and the farmers. They may not be
19 the French Riviera, but I will tell you, they are mighty beauti-
20 ful and they are filled with treasures..

21 (Applause)

22 Now, this great dam that is off here that we can
23 see will add to all of these benefits. It will generate enough
24 electricity to light a large city. The 118-mile lake that
25 it will create on the Cumberland will be linked with the

1 Tennessee, as I have said, multiplying the value of the system.

2 Boating and fishing will be great; and, my,
3 what new industries will spring up -- a great new resource to
4 serve you in your daily lives, new industries, new jobs, new
5 wealth, new businesses, and more pleasure and recreation.

6 We Americans use this occasion not only to dedi-
7 cate one dam and to honor one project, but to remind us that
8 we must continue to develop our rivers to meet our many needs.
9 And this development here is a model for the nation. Yes,
10 what we see before us here today can give us much wider hope
11 throughout the world.

12 The methods of regional growth which are so
13 fruitful here in this country can be employed with proper
14 adaptation elsewhere in the world. The great river systems
15 of the world can and should be developed for the benefit of
16 mankind.

17 It is my view that these great river systems are
18 the hope of peace in this world. Imagine a time when the
19 Amazon and the Nile and the Congo and the Ganges -- even,
20 at the proper moment, the Yangtze -- might contribute their
21 enormous wealth and energies to the world. In these great
22 rivers are the waters of peace and progress, and they can
23 take inspiration from this Tennessee Valley, this which is
24 the living spirit of the new America.

25 A great deal of the world's attention is now

1 focused on another river, the Mekong River in Southeast Asia,
2 near where your sons are giving of their all, in the area of
3 Viet-Nam and Laos and Cambodia and Thailand; and the develop-
4 ment of that river can mean peace. It will mean food and
5 energy and transport to an entire region.

6 So river development is more than economics,
7 more than flood control, more than recreation; it is hope.

8 In all the past history some people and places
9 have stood in the sunshine of prosperity, while others have
10 remained in the darkness of poverty. And this has been con-
11 sidered as inevitable in the past, when it was considered at
12 all.

13 But here today in America we are determined
14 that poverty shall not be inevitable; that all of our people,
15 everyone, every American, shall have a chance to live a
16 better, a freer, happier, richer, life. We are determined
17 that some places and some people in America should not be
18 left behind, when our country as a whole moves ahead to new
19 well-being and prosperity.

20 We believe in one citizenship, in one America
21 under God, and with liberty and justice for all. And we not
22 only believe in it; we seek to make it a fact. And we have
23 accepted that principle that Alben Barkley fought for so
24 many years: That it should be the part of the responsibility
25 of government to help create a balanced national prosperity.

Remember the words of Jefferson, who said:
"The only legitimate objective of government is the happiness and the well-being of the people."

And Barkley, like President Johnson today, knows that equality of opportunity for everyone is a minimum essential for a free nation.

And, finally, as we celebrate this dedication, I think we could do well to share once more with each other the vision of the man for whom this dam is named, as he set it forth in his autobiography some twelve years ago. And here is Alben Barkley speaking to you:

"If every river valley could be developed as the Tennessee Valley has been, with similar results, the standard of life throughout the nation would be immensely advanced.

"I should like to see every American family living in a comfortable home, and every American child born and reared in an atmosphere sufficiently wholesome to guarantee an even chance for health and intellectual and moral development consonant with the responsibilities of American citizenship.

"I should like to see," said Alben Barkley, "I should like to live to see the world at peace where the inventive genius of man would be utilized to improve the conditions of life throughout the world. I should like to

1 live to see the pledge of every nation respected by every
2 other nation because it was made in good faith and observed
3 to the letter.

4 "I should like to see the day when religious
5 and racial bigotry and intolerance would give way to the
6 universal recognition of the rights of every man and woman
7 regardless of race, creed, or color.

8 "These ideals may constitute Utopian ideals and
9 dreams. But if civilization is to be preserved, mankind must
10 seek their consummation."

11 My fellow Americans, those are the words of a
12 statesman. That is the promise and the pledge of a great
13 American. Those words were written twelve years ago, and they
14 have served as an inspiration for everyone since to try to
15 achieve the full meaning of their promise. And we are on
16 that road.

17 We are making progress in America. There is a
18 new day. There are new opportunities. There is new wealth.
19 There are new privileges. And with all of it come heavy
20 responsibilities.

21 The vision of Alben Barkley was a large one, but
22 it is a vision worthy of a great people and a great nation;
23 and I hope that it is a vision that we as Americans can have
24 the courage to hold, as Alben Barkley held it. And I say
25 that, if we hold to our vision, who is it to say that it cannot

1 be achieved?

2 You know and I know that it can be. You know and
3 I know that it must be. Because we know today, as Lincoln said
4 to us a hundred and one years ago, that this beloved America
5 of ours is the last best hope on earth. We are its cus-
6 todians. We are its stewards. We can do no less than to
7 keep this last best hope a living symbol of justice and of
8 freedom and of opportunity for mankind, not only here but
9 everywhere.

10 That was the prayer of the man who said that
11 he would like to be serving as a servant in the House of the
12 Lord.

13 Now, ladies and gentlemen, I understand that it
14 is to be my privilege to pour together the waters mixing the
15 waters of the Cumberland and the Tennessee Rivers that flow
16 through the Barkley Canal. And if Captain and Mrs. George
17 Renfrow will bring those two vials of water here, I will try
18 to do my job of pouring these decanters of water into this bowl
19 to symbolize the mixing of the waters of the Cumberland and
20 the Tennessee Rivers through the Barkley Canal.

21 And isn't this an appropriate symbol, too, of how
22 this great man for whom this project is named wanted people
23 to learn how to live together, not to be divided, not an
24 America divided, not a people divided, but an America and a
25 people united.

1 So, Captain and Mrs. Renfrow, if you will permit --
2 if you have something to say what the proceedings are, you go
3 right ahead, Mrs. Renfrow.

4 MRS. RENFROW: Mr. Vice-President, this is water
5 from Lake Barkley of the Cumberland River.

6 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Thank you.

7 CAPTAIN RENFROW: Sir, this is the water from
8 Kentucky Lake of the Tennessee.

9 VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: They entrusted this
10 responsibility to a former druggist, Congressman Stubblefield,
11 who knows how to pour from these pharmaceutical vials without
12 spilling a drop, I hope. The Barkley Lake Reservoir; the
13 Kentucky; and we shall now mix together these two. (Pouring
14 two decanters of water into bowl) (Applause)

15 I understand that we have a little unveiling pro-
16 cedure to do here. If somebody will tell me just where that
17 plaque is. You hear the tow boat with its tooting horn.

18 At this point we officially now dedicate the
19 Barkley Dam project, and the tow boat will proceed through
20 the lock, passing through giving joyous noises.

21 (Unveiling of plaque. Tooting of boat horn)

22 There we are.

23 (There dedication was concluded at 11:28 a.m.)
24
25

* * * * *



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org