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**Office of the White House Press Secretary  
Libby, Montana**

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**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**TEXT OF THE REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE  
DEDICATION OF LIBBY DAM**

**LIBBY, MONTANA  
AUGUST 24, 1975**

I am very pleased to participate in the dedication of the Libby Dam. It provides me with a great opportunity to visit this beautiful "Big Sky" country I've heard so much about from my son, Steve, and my friends in the Montana Congressional delegation.

The problem is -- that we in Washington sometimes forget how refreshing and beautiful America is, particularly this part of America which has been the inspiration for so many poets and painters.

Flying across this vast continent is an inspiration. I am filled with awe by how much we've accomplished in two short centuries. We have carved a civilization out of a wilderness. Let us now make sure we keep some wilderness carved out of our civilization.

Montana is one of our most rugged and untouched areas. It stands as a symbol of our natural resources and our native spirit. Libby Dam is also a symbol of how a commitment to the environment can be balanced with our technological needs. It is a multi-purpose project that shows it is possible to take a natural resource and use it wisely to satisfy a wide variety of human needs.

America needs more home-grown energy and this dam will provide clean, electrical power for the equivalent of 235,000 homes in the Pacific Northwest. But most important, this power will be created without using expensive and depletable fossil fuel. Here at Libby Dam, the marriage of technology and nature will be a happy one.

A second welcome purpose of Libby Dam is flood control. A television commercial tells us it's not nice to fool mother nature. On the other hand, Libby Dam will keep mother nature from fooling us.

Irrigation is the third purpose of Libby Dam. The life-giving waters it stores will give farmers the ability to keep their lands fertile and their yields high. In a world of increasing scarcity, food may soon be our most valuable resource. Libby Dam and others like it make this miracle of abundance possible.

As an outdoor enthusiast, another purpose of Libby Dam is dear to my heart. The recreational opportunities of this magnificent lake are almost unlimited. It will provide the activities that firm muscles, clear minds and renew spirits.

I doubt if medical science will ever come up with a better tranquilizer than a boat, a fishing pole, and a lazy afternoon. It's the stuff that contentment is made of.

The harmony this multi-purpose project has created between technology and the environment is also reflected in the partnership between the United States and Canada. This dam stands as a powerful reminder of how much mutual benefit such cooperation can accomplish.

**MORE**

Relations between the U.S. and Canada have long been characterized by friendship and partnership. As we join in this dedication today, let us renew our commitment to work in peace to find solutions to our mutual problems.

The poet, Tennyson, once wrote, "Nothing in nature is unbeautiful." I believe that mankind has the responsibility of preserving that beauty. Let us therefore take heart and pride in the creation of Libby Dam.

It will enhance the best we and our environment have to offer. It offers the message loud and clear: We are the defenders, not the despoilers, of this great land.

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