

AUGUST 24, 1975

POOL REPORT AT LIBBY DAM AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

When the President had finished, he and Minister Macdonald walked to the far left-hand corner of the stage and put their hands on a huge three-pronged electrical switch mounted on a black panel. Behind them was a spectacular view of the four hundred foot concrete dam with water rushing down two spillways to the riverbed. As the President and Minister Macdonald through the switch, an amber light went on above the switch and the two men turned to watch the spillways.

In about sixty seconds the water on the spillways tapered off to a trickle. And the faint sound of a horn could be heard in the distance. The audience of several hundred people were told the horn meant the water from the river had been successfully diverted from the spillways to the first power turbine and that for the first time at Libby Dam electrical power was being produced.

After a few handshakes, President Ford's motorcade returned to the helicopter pad at the top of the Dam. Someone (?) presented President Ford with a framed plaque as the President and the Minister shook hands for the last time at a marker at one end of the long road which runs along the top of the Dam.

After a few more handshakes, the President's helicopter took off for Kalispell on what seemed to be a shorter flight than the trip to Libby Dam.

Ann Compton/ABC

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