

March 4, 1936

[Tunis Dam Opening]

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FDR Speech File

President
pressed button
for this on March
11, 1936

P.P.F.

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Top sheet was
used

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

The Norris Dam is a practical symbol
of better life and greater opportunity for millions
of citizens of our country. Senator Norris
/unes me in extending my congratulations
to all who constructed the Tennessee
Valley watershed.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Tennessee River watershed covers parts of 7 states.
They are Virginia, N.C., Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi,
Tennessee and Kentucky. It covers roughly about
42,000 square miles - population about 2 million.
Area - about the size of England.
Population - about that of Norway.

Divine'side Release For The Press March 4, 1936

Statement by the President

I hope as many people as can will go to see the Norris Dam, in eastern Tennessee. It exemplifies great engineering skill, high construction efficiency and above all it is the key to the carefully worked out control of a great river and its watershed spread over parts of seven states.

The Norris Dam is a practical symbol of better life and greater opportunity for ~~many~~ millions of citizens of our country.

The Nation has come to realize that national resources must not be wasted and the Norris Dam is evidence that our program for conservation of these resources is going forward."

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STATEMENTS FILE

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

file
F 3/4/36

I have just pressed a button to signal the closing of the gates in Norris Dam, which is located near the mouth of Cove Creek on the Clinch River, a tributary of the Tennessee River, about 25 miles northwest of Knoxville, Tennessee. This is the third largest concrete dam in the United States. It is the fourth largest in the world, the others being Boulder, Dnieperstroil, and Wilson Dams.

The completion of Norris Dam marks an important step in the program of the Tennessee Valley Authority to control the land and water resources of the Tennessee watershed. It is essentially a flood control and navigation project. By storing a year's rainfall behind the dam, flood dangers in the Tennessee Valley and the Mississippi Valley are proportionately reduced, and undesirable fluctuations in navigable depths at high water season are alleviated. By releasing this water during dry months, navigable depths will be maintained for commerce. This release of the water during the dry season will produce the important by-product of power, and the effect of this regulation will be directly felt at Wilson Dam at Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Labor relations in connection with the job, I am informed, have been of the best. Satisfactory wages have been paid and housing conditions for the workers in the new town of Norris have set new standards for construction camps.

The nation has come to realize that national resources must not be wasted and the Norris Dam is evidence that our program for the conservation of these resources is going forward.

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Statement by the President.

~~PP~~ I have just pressed a button to signal the closing of the gates in Norris Dam, and the impounding of the reservoir behind the ~~reservoir~~ ~~northern~~ ~~line~~ completion of the Dam. Norris Dam, which is located near the mouth of Cove Creek on the Clinch River, a tributary of the Tennessee River, about 25 miles northwest of Knoxville, Tennessee, ^{This is} ~~is today~~ the third largest concrete dam in the United States. It is the fourth largest in the world, ~~with only~~ ^{the others being} Boulder, Dnieperstroi, and Wilson Dams. ~~containing more than 1,000,000 cubic yards.~~ ^{The actual} concrete volume is slightly more than 1,000,000 cubic yards, and of these 996,000 cubic yards were placed in twenty months.

~~The Dam is 1,872 feet long and 265 feet high and it can hold back a reservoir of water containing more than three and one-half million acre-feet. The total number of persons given employment at one time on the project was 7,440, of which 2,500 worked on the Dam, and approximately 5,000 clearing the reservoir and related work. The total number of man-hours of work on the project thus far has totaled sixteen million.~~

~~PP~~ The completion of Norris Dam marks an important step in the program of the Tennessee Valley Authority to control the land and water resources of the Tennessee watershed. It is essentially a flood control and navigation project. By storing a year's rainfall behind the ~~Dam~~, flood dangers in the Tennessee Valley and the Mississippi Valley are proportionately reduced, and undesirable fluctuations in navigable depths at high water season are alleviated. By releasing this water during dry months, navigable depths ^{will be} ~~are~~ maintained for commerce. This release of the water during the dry season will produce the important by-product of power, and the effect of this regulation will be directly felt at Wilson Dam at Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

~~Our citizens should also be interested in the completion of the Norris Dam as a fine example of efficient public administration. It should be a satisfaction~~

~~to the public to know that under the sponsorship of the federal government,
this dam has been completed several months ahead of schedule at a net cost of
less than \$35,000,000, and that the unit costs compare favorably with those
of any similar structure.~~

~~P~~ ^{in connection with the job} Labor relations have been of the best. Satisfactory wages have been paid
^A ~~Dam Inform~~ and housing conditions for the workers in the new town of Norris have set
new standards for construction camps.

~~P~~ The nation has come to realize that national resources must not be
wasted and the Norris Dam is evidence that our program for the conservation
of these resources is going forward.

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have just pressed a button to signal the closing of the gates in Norris Dam, which is located near the mouth of Cove Creek on the Clinch River, a tributary of the Tennessee River, about 25 miles northeast of Knoxville, Tennessee. This is the third largest concrete dam in the United States. It is the fourth largest in the world, the others being Boulder, Dnieperstroy, and Wilson Dams.

The completion of Norris Dam marks an important step in the program of the Tennessee Valley Authority to control the land and water resources of the Tennessee watershed. It is essentially a flood control and navigation project. By storing a year's rainfall behind the dam, flood dangers in the Tennessee Valley and the Mississippi Valley are proportionately reduced, and undesirable fluctuations in navigable depths at high water season are alleviated. By releasing this water during dry months, navigable depths will be maintained for commerce. This release of the water during the dry season will produce the important by-product of power, and the effect of this regulation will be directly felt at Wilson Dam at Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Labor relations in connection with the job, I am informed, have been of the best. Satisfactory wages have been paid and housing conditions for the workers in the new town of Norris have set new standards for construction camps.

The nation has come to realize that national resources must not be wasted and the Norris Dam is evidence that our program for the conservation of these resources is going forward.

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TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington.

March 4, 1936, 2:00 p.m. EST.

Closing Gates Norris Dam.

Telegraph circuit to Knoxville, Tenn.,
via Telephone conductor to
Norris Dam.

Direct contact from The White House
to the dam.

~~I hope as many people as can will go see~~ The Norris Dam,
in eastern Tennessee. ~~which~~ exemplifies great engineering skill ^{and} high
construction efficiency. ~~and~~ Above all it is the key to the carefully
worked out control of a great river and its watershed spread over
parts of seven states.

The Norris Dam is a practical symbol of better life and
greater opportunity for many millions of citizens of our country.

The Nation has come to realize that national resources must
not be wasted and the Norris Dam is evidence that our program for
conservation of these resources is going forward.

I am informed, ^{The job}
Morris Dam is months ahead of schedule, ~~it has paid good~~
~~wages. It has spread employment~~ ^{through short working hours.} ~~most hours. In doing~~
~~so it has afforded the workers opportunity for education and vocational~~
training. At the same time it has provided decent housing and recreation.
Its cost is under the estimate, yet is lower than similar work done by
private interests paying lower wages.

Morris Dam is essentially a flood control and navigation project. Located on the Clinch river, at the headwaters of the Tennessee, it will provide a storage river which, in dry season, will feed all downstream dams. It ties in with Wilson Dam in the coordinated effort to advance navigation on the Tennessee river and reduce the flood menace not only on that stream, but in the Mississippi basin as well.

(The millionth cubic yard of concrete was recently poured
on Morris Dam.)

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6000

I hope as many few as can
& go down to see & M
in E's Den. &
I am ~~over~~ ^{too} & scrapes great
eng'g skill, his construction efficiency
& above all it is ^{so} key
to & ~~planned~~ carefully
worked out Capital of a
gr river & its watershed
spread over (?) states. I U Dam
is a practical symbol of better
life & greater opportunity for
many mill annos.

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FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 1946

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

"I hope as many people as can will go to see the Norris Dam, in eastern Tennessee. It exemplifies great engineering skill, high construction efficiency and above all it is the key to the carefully worked out control of a great river and its watershed spread over parts of seven states.

"The Norris Dam is a practical symbol of better life and greater opportunity for millions of citizens of our country.

"The Nation has come to realize that national resources must not be wasted and the Norris Dam is evidence that our program for conservation of these resources is going forward."