
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

**Series 2: “ You have nothing to fear but fear itself:” FDR
and the New Deal**

File No. 1081

1937 September 28

Bonneville Dam - Address

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
 BONNEVILLE DAM
 SEPTEMBER 27, 1937.

feeling of real satisfaction

Today I have a ~~very satisfactory~~ ^{other} ~~and of pleasure~~ in witnessing the completion of a great national project, ~~in the inception~~ ^{of which}, four years ago, I had some part. My interest in the whole of the valley of the great Columbia River goes back to 1920 when I first studied ~~this~~ its mighty possibilities. Again, in 1932, I visited Oregon and Washington and Idaho and took occasion in Portland to express views which have since, through the action of the Congress, become a recorded part of American national policy.

And, finally, Almost exactly two years ago, I inspected the early construction stages of this dam at Bonneville.

The more we study the water resources of the Nation the more we accept the fact that their use is a matter of national concern, and that in our plans for their use our line of thinking must include great regions as well as narrower localities.

If, for example, we had known as much and acted *as we do today* as effectively twenty and thirty and forty years ago in the development of the use of land in that great semi-arid

strip in the center of the country which runs from the Canadian border to Texas, we could have prevented in great part the abandonment of thousands and thousands of farms; abdications in portions of ten States and ~~which~~ ^{thus} prevented the migration of thousands of destitute families from those areas into the States of Washington and Oregon and California. (A)

If many years ago we had had the necessary knowledge especially ^{in the part} and the necessary willingness of the Federal Government to act on it, we would have saved a sum which, in the last few years, has cost the taxpayers of the Nation at least two billion dollars.

Coming back to the watershed of the Columbia River, which covers the greater part of the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and a part of Montana, it is increasingly important that we think of that region as a unit -- and especially in terms of the whole population of that area as it is today and as we expect it will be fifty and even a hundred years from now.

I appreciate and I ~~am fully~~ ^{JULY} of understanding of the desire of some who live close to some of the great sources of power in this watershed to seek the advantages

which come from geographical proximity. More than eight years ago, when I became Governor of the State of New York, we developed plans for the harnessing of the St. Lawrence River and the production of a vast amount of cheap power. The good people who lived within a few miles of the proposed dam were ~~misinformed~~ enthused by the prospect of building up a huge manufacturing center close to the source of the power -- another Pittsburgh -- a vast city of whirling machinery. It was a natural dream but wiser counsels prevailed and the government of the State laid down a policy based on the distribution of the proposed power to as wide an area as the science of the transmission would permit.

We felt that the Governor and the Legislature of the State owed it to the people in the smaller communities for hundreds of miles around to give them the benefit of cheap electricity in their homes and their farms and ~~and~~ their shops. And while the St. Lawrence project is still on paper, I have no doubt of its ultimate development, and of the application of the policy of the widest use when the electric current starts to flow.

That is why in developing ~~the use of~~ electricity from this ^{possible} ~~project~~ ^{to be built} ~~Bonneville Dam~~, from the Grand Coulee Dam and from other dams on ^A

the Columbia and its tributaries which, without question,
~~will be built in the coming generation~~, the policy of the
widest use ought to prevail. The transmission of elec-
tricity is making such scientific strides today that we
can well visualize a date, not far distant, when every
community in this great area will be ~~make~~ wholly elec-
trified.

It is because I am thinking of the Nation and
~~50 years from now~~
the region ~~half century hence~~ that I venture the further
prophesy that as time passes we will do ~~all we can~~ to
encourage the building up of the smaller communities of
the United States. ^{Taking} Many people are beginning to realize
~~today~~ ⁷⁵ that there ~~are~~ inherent weaknesses in cities which
become too large and inherent strength in a wider ~~geographical~~
geological distribution of population.

An over-large city inevitably meets problems
caused by oversize. Real estate values become too high;
~~for average family living.~~ The time consumed in going
from one's home to one's work and back again becomes
excessive; congestion of streets and other transportation
problems arise; truck gardens become impossible because

the backyard shrinks in size ~~and~~ ~~as~~ ~~as~~ the cost of
living of the average family rises far too high.
~~Food increases.~~

There is doubtless a ~~more~~ ^{reasonable} balance in all of this
and it is a balance which ought to be given more and more
study. No one would suggest, for example, that the great
cities of Portland, and Tacoma and Seattle and Spokane
should stop their growth, but it is a fact that they could
grow unhealthily at the expense of all the smaller communi-
ties of which they form logical centers. Their healthiest
growth depends ^{actually} ~~in-great-part~~ on a simultaneous healthy
growth of every smaller community within a radius of
hundreds of miles.

Your situation in the Northwest is in this respect
no different from the situation in the other great regions
of the Nation. That is why it has been proposed in the
Congress that regional planning ^{boards} ~~authorities~~ be set up for
the purpose of coordinating the planning for the future
in seven or eight natural ^{geographical} ~~natural~~ regions.

You will have read here as elsewhere many mis-
leading and utterly untrue statements in ^{some papers} ~~the press~~ and by

Some politicians that this proposed legislation would set up all powerful authorities which would destroy State lines, take away local government and make what people call a totalitarian ^{A Dangerous} ~~totalitarian~~ or authoritarian or some other kind of ~~centralized~~ national dictatorship. Most people realize that the exact opposite is the truth -- that regional commissions will be far more closely in touch with the needs of all the localities and all the people in their respective regions than a system of plans which originates in the Capital of the Nation. ^{By decentralizing as I have proposed,} ~~unplanned, hit or miss~~ the Chief Executive, the various government departments, and the Congress itself will be able to get from each region a carefully worked out plan each year -- a plan based on future needs, a plan which will seek primarily to help all the people of the region without unduly favoring any one locality or discriminating against ~~any~~ ^{other.}

In other words, the responsibility of the Federal Government for the welfare of its citizens will not come from the top in the form of ~~unplanned, hit or miss~~ appropriations of money, but will come to the National Capital from the ground up -- from the communities and counties and states

-7-

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Another great advantage will be served by this process of planning from the bottom up. Under our laws the President submits to the Congress an Annual Budget — a budget which, by the way, we expect to have definitely balanced by the next fiscal year. In this budget we know how much can properly be expended for the development of ^{the greatest} ~~of our~~ ^{of our} ~~part~~ ^{part} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~part~~ ^{part} ~~of our~~ ^{of our} ~~work~~ ^{work}, our natural resources, the construction of our highways and buildings, the maintenance of our harbors and channels and all the other elements which fall under the general heading of public works. By regional planning it will be vastly easier for the Executive branch and the Congress to determine how the appropriations for the following year shall most fairly and equitably be fit ^{Fed} into the total amount which our national pocketbook allows ~~and~~ ^{affordably} ~~to spend~~.

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT

BONNEVILLE DAM

SEPTEMBER 28, 1937

Today I have a feeling of real satisfaction in witnessing the completion of another great national project, and of pleasure in the fact that in its inception, four years ago, I had some part. My interest in the whole of the valley of the great Columbia River goes back to 1920 when I first studied its mighty possibilities. Again, in 1932, I visited Oregon and Washington and Idaho and took occasion in Portland to express views which have since, through the action of the Congress, become a recorded part of American national policy.

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The more we study the water resources of the Nation the more we accept the fact that their use is a matter of national concern, and that in our plans for

their use our line of thinking must include great regions as well as narrower localities.

If, for example, we had known as much and acted as effectively twenty and thirty and forty years ago as we do today in the development of the use of land in that great semi-arid strip in the center of the country which runs from the Canadian border to Texas, we could have prevented in great part the abandonment of thousands and thousands of farms in portions of ten States and thus prevented the migration of thousands of destitute families from those areas into the States of Washington and Oregon and California. We would have done this by avoiding the plowing up of vast areas which should have been kept in range and by stricter regulations to prevent over-grazing. At the same time we would have checked soil erosion, stopped the denudation to our forests and controlled disastrous fires.

Some of my friends who talk glibly of the right of any individual to do anything he wants with any of his property take the point of view that it is not the concern of Federal or state or local government to interfere with what they call "the liberty of the individual." With them I do not agree and never have agreed because, unlike them, I am thinking of the future of the United States. My conception of liberty does not permit an individual citizen or group of citizens to commit acts of depredation against nature in such a way as to harm their neighbors, and especially to harm the future generations of Americans.

If many years ago we had had the necessary knowledge and especially the necessary willingness on the part of the Federal Government to act on it, we would have saved a sum which, in the last few years, has cost the taxpayers of the Nation at least two billion dollars.

Coming back to the watershed of the Columbia River, which covers the greater part of the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and a part of Montana, it is increasingly important that we think of that region as a unit -- and especially in terms of the whole population of that area as it is today and as we expect it will be fifty and even a hundred years from now.

I appreciate and I understand fully the desire of some who live close to some of the great sources of power in this watershed to seek the advantages which come from geographical proximity.

More than eight years ago, when I became Governor of the State of New York, we developed plans for the harnessing of the St. Lawrence River and the production of a vast amount of cheap power. The good people who lived within a few miles of the proposed dam were enthused by the prospect of building up a huge manufacturing center close to the source of the power -- another Pittsburgh --

a vast city of whirling machinery. It was a natural dream, but wiser counsels prevailed and the government of the State laid down a policy based on the distribution of the proposed power to as wide an area as the science of the transmission would permit.

We felt that the Governor and the Legislature of the State owed it to the people in the smaller communities for hundreds of miles around to give them the benefit of cheap electricity in their homes and their farms and their shops. And while the St. Lawrence project is still on paper, I have no doubt of its ultimate development, and of the application of the policy of the widest possible use when the electric current starts to flow.

That is why in developing electricity from this Bonneville Dam, from the Grand Coulee Dam and from other dams to be built on the Columbia and its tributaries,

the policy of the widest use ought to prevail. The transmission of electricity is making such scientific strides today that we can well visualize a date, not far distant, when every community in this great area will be wholly electrified.

It is because I am thinking of the Nation and the region fifty years from now that I venture the further prophesy that as time passes we will do everything in our power to encourage the building up of the smaller communities of the United States. Today many people are beginning to realize that there is inherent weakness in cities which become too large and inherent strength in a wider ^{geographical} ~~geological~~ distribution of population.

An over-large city inevitably meets problems caused by oversize. Real estate values and rents become too high; the time consumed in going from one's home to one's work and back again becomes excessive; congestion of streets and other transportation problems arise; truck

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Congress that regional planning boards be set up for the
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You will have read here as elsewhere many misleading and utterly untrue statements in some papers and by some politicians that this proposed legislation would set up all-powerful authorities which would destroy State lines, take away local government and make what people call a totalitarian or authoritarian or some other kind of a dangerous national *capital*. centralized ~~decentralization~~. Most people realize that the exact opposite is the truth -- that regional commissions will be far more closely in touch with the needs of all the localities and all the people in their respective regions than a system of plans which originates in the Capital of the Nation. By decentralizing as I have proposed, the Chief Executive, the various government departments, and the Congress itself will be able to get from each region a carefully worked out plan each year -- a plan based on future needs, a plan which will seek primarily to help all the people of the region without unduly favoring any one locality or discriminating against any other.

In other words, the responsibility of the Federal Government for the welfare of its citizens will not come from the top in the form of unplanned, hit or miss appropriations of money, but will ^{bring} ~~come~~ to the National Capital from the ground up -- from the communities and counties and states which lie within each of the logical geographical areas.

Another great advantage will be served by this process of planning from the bottom up. Under our laws the President submits to the Congress an Annual Budget -- a budget which, by the way, we expect to have definitely balanced by the next fiscal year. In this budget we know how much can properly be expended for the development of our natural resources, the protection of our soil, the construction of our highways and buildings, the maintenance of our harbors and channels and all the other elements which fall under the general heading of public works. By regional planning it will be vastly easier for the Executive branch

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To you who live thousands of miles away in other parts of the United States, I want to give two or three simple facts. This Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River, forty-two miles east of Portland, with Oregon on the south side of the river and Washington on the north, is one of the major power and navigation projects undertaken since 1933. It is 170 feet high and 1,250 feet long. It has been built by the Corps of Engineers of the War Department and when fully completed, with ~~about~~ ^{part of} its power installations, will cost \$51,000,000. Its locks will enable shipping to use this great waterway much further inland than at present, and give an outlet to the enormously valuable agricultural and mineral products of Oregon and Washington and Idaho. Its generators will produce 580,000 horse power of electricity.

Truly, in the construction of this dam we have had our eyes on the future of the Nation. Its cost will be returned to the people of the United States many times over in the improvement of navigation and transportation, the cheapening of electric power, and the distribution of this power to hundreds of small communities within a great radius.

As I look upon Bonneville Dam today, I cannot help the thought that instead of spending, as some nations do, half their national income in piling up armaments and more armaments for purposes of war, we in America are wiser in using our wealth on projects like this which will give us more wealth, better living and greater happiness for our children.

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
Bonneville Dam, Oregon
September 26, 1937, 9:30 A.M., P.T.

GOVERNOR MARTIN, MY FRIENDS OF THE NORTHWEST:

Today I have a feeling of real satisfaction in witnessing the completion of another great national project, and of pleasure in the fact that in its inception, four years ago, I had some part. My interest in the whole of the valley of the great Columbia River goes back seventeen years to 1920 when I first studied its mighty possibilities. And again, in 1932, I visited Oregon and Washington and Idaho and on that visit I took occasion in Portland to express certain views which have since, through the action of the Congress, become a recorded part of American national policy.

Almost exactly three years ago, I inspected the early construction stages of this dam at Bonneville.

The more we study the water resources of the Nation, the more we accept the fact that their use is a matter of national concern, and that in our plans for their use our line of thinking must include great regions as well as narrower localities.

If, for example, we Americans had known as much and acted as effectively twenty (and) or thirty (and) or forty years ago as we do today in the development of the use of land in that great semi-arid strip in the center of the country (which) that runs from the Canadian border all the way down to Texas, we could have prevented in great part the abandonment of thousands and thousands of farms in portions of ten states and thus prevented the migration of thousands of destitute families from those areas into the States of

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This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

...the more bad I ,oga every now ,nolifidol off si this foot off si

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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Washington and Oregon and California. We would have done this by avoiding the plowing up of (vast) great areas (which) that should have been kept in grazing ranges and by stricter regulations to prevent over-grazing. At the same time we would have checked soil erosion, stopped the denudation to our forests and controlled disastrous fires.

Some of my friends who talk glibly (of) about the right of any individual to do anything he wants with any of his property take the point of view that it is not the concern of Federal or state or local government to interfere with what they miscall "the liberty of the individual." With them I do not agree and never have agreed (applause) because, unlike them, I am thinking of the future of the United States. (Applause) Yes, my conception of liberty does not permit an individual citizen or a group of citizens to commit acts of depredation against nature in such a way as to harm their neighbors, and especially to harm the future generations of Americans.

If many years ago we had had the necessary knowledge and especially the necessary willingness on the part of the Federal Government to act on it, we would have saved a sum, a sum of money which, in the last few years, has cost the taxpayers of the Nation at least two billion dollars.

Coming back to the watershed of the Columbia River, which covers the greater part of the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and a part of Montana, it is increasingly important that we think of that region as a unit -- and especially in terms of the whole population of that area as it is today and as we expect it will be fifty and even a hundred years from now.

I appreciate and I fully understand (fully) the desire of some who live close to some of the great sources of power in this watershed to seek the advantages which come from geographical proximity.

More than eight years ago, when I became Governor of the State of New York, we developed plans for the harnessing of the St. Lawrence River and the production of a vast amount of cheap power. The good people who lived within a few miles of the proposed dam were enthused by the prospect of building up a huge manufacturing center close to the source of the power -- (another) a sort of new Pittsburgh -- a vast city, (of) large population, whirling machinery. It was a natural dream, but wiser counsels prevailed and the government of the State laid down a policy based on the distribution of the proposed power to as wide an area as the science of (the) transmission would permit.

We felt that the Governor and the Legislature of the State owed it to the people in the smaller communities for hundreds of miles around to give them the benefit of cheap electricity in their homes, (and their farms and) in their shops and on their farms. And while the St. Lawrence project, I am sorry to say, is still on paper, I have no doubt of its ultimate development, and of the application of the policy of the widest possible use when the electric current starts to flow.

And so, my friends, that is why in developing electricity from this Bonneville Dam, from the Grand Coulee Dam and from other dams to be built in the future on the Columbia and its tributaries -- yes, they are going to be built (applause) this policy of the widest

use ought to prevail. The transmission of electricity is making such scientific strides today that we can well visualize a date, not far distant, when every community in this (great) vast area will be wholly electrified. (Applause)

It is because I am thinking of the Nation and the region fifty years from now that I venture the further prophecy that as time passes we will do everything in our power to encourage the building up of the smaller communities of the United States. Today many people are beginning to realize that there is inherent weakness in big cities, (which become too large and) cities too large for the times and that there is inherent strength in a wider geographical distribution of population.

An over-large city inevitably meets problems caused by oversize. Real estate values and rents become too high; the time consumed in going from one's (home) house to one's work and back again becomes excessive; congestion of streets and other transportation problems arise; truck (gardens) gardening in the back yard becomes impossible because the back yard becomes too small, indeed (disappear because the back yard is too small); the cost of living of the average family rises far too high.

There is doubtless a reasonable balance in all of this and it is a balance which ought to be given more and more study. No one would suggest (for example) that the great cities of Portland and Tacoma and Seattle and Spokane should stop their growth, but it is a fact that they could grow unhealthily at the expense of all the smaller communities of which they form logical centers. Their healthiest growth actually depends on a simultaneous healthy growth of every

smaller community within a radius of hundreds of miles.

Your situation here in the Northwest is in this respect no different from the situation in the other great regions of the Nation. That is why it has been proposed in the Congress that regional planning boards be set up for the purpose of coordinating the planning, the planning for the future in seven or eight natural geographical regions.

You will have read here as elsewhere many misleading and utterly untrue statements in some papers and by some politicians that this proposed legislation would set up all powerful authorities (which) that would destroy state lines, take away local government and make what people call -- I do not understand the phrases very well, but they sound big -- what people call (a) totalitarian or authoritarian or some other kind of a dangerous national centralized control. (Laughter, applause) Most people realize, of course, that the exact opposite is the truth -- that regional commissions will be far more closely in touch with the needs of all the localities and all the people in their respective regions than a system of plans which originate(s) in the Capital of the Nation. By decentralizing as I have proposed, the Chief Executive, and the various branches of the Government (government departments), and the Congress itself will be able to get from each region a carefully worked out plan each year -- a plan based on future needs, a plan which will seek primarily to help all the people of the region without unduly favoring any one locality or discriminating against any other.

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the form of unplanned, hit or miss appropriations of money, but will progress to the National Capital from the ground up -- from the communities and counties and the states which lie within each of the logical geographical areas.

And, my friends, another great advantage, because we do have to think of our pocketbooks, another great advantage will be served by this process of planning from the bottom up. Under our laws the President has to submit(s) to the Congress an Annual Budget -- a budget which, by the way, we expect to have definitely balanced by the next fiscal year, next July first. (Applause) In this budget we know how much can properly be expended for the development of our natural resources, the protection of our soil, the construction of our highways and buildings, the maintenance of our harbors and channels and all the other elements (which) that fall under the general heading of public works. By regional planning it will be vastly easier for the Executive branch of the Government and the Congress to determine how the appropriations for the following year shall be fitted most fairly and equitably into the total amount (which) that our national pocketbook allows us safely to spend.

To you who live thousands of miles away in other parts of the United States, who are hearing my voice at this time, I want to give two or three simple facts. This Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River, forty-two miles east of Portland, with Oregon on the south side of the river and Washington on the north, is one of the major power and navigation projects undertaken since 1933. It is 170 feet high and it is 1,250 feet long. It has been built by the Corps of Engineers of the War Department, and when fully completed, with (all

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Truly, in the construction of this dam we have had our eyes on the future of the Nation. Its cost will be returned to the people of the United States many, many times over in the improvement of navigation and transportation, the cheapening of electric power, and the distribution of this power to hundreds of small communities within a great radius.

As I look (up)on Bonneville Dam today, I cannot help the thought that instead of spending, as some nations do, half their national income in piling up armaments and more armaments for purposes of war, we in America are wiser in using our wealth on projects like this (applause) which will give us more wealth, better living and greater happiness for our children. (Applause, prolonged)

And now, my friends, there are just two more things to do:
First of all, in my official capacity and my personal capacity, for
I know many of them, I want to extend the thanks of the Nation to the
men and the women who have made this dam. (Applause) And, secondly,
I am going to go through what in some countries would be a very formal
procedure. I am going to press a button without any more words and
that will start everything going. Here it is. (Applause)

STATEMENTS FILE

HOLD FOR RELEASE Shorthand By Kanneer HOLD FOR RELEASE

CAUTION: This address of the President, to be made at Bonneville Dam, Oregon, September 28, 1937, is to be held for release upon delivery, expected about 9:30 A.M. Pacific Time.
PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE

M. H. McINTYRE,
Secretary to the President.

Today I have a feeling of real satisfaction in witnessing the completion of another great national project, and of pleasure in the fact that in its inception, four years ago, I had some part. My interest in the whole of the valley of the great Columbia River goes back to 1930 when I first studied its mighty possibilities. Again, in 1932, I visited Oregon and Washington and Idaho and took occasion in Portland to express views which have since, through the action of the Congress, become a recorded part of American national policy.

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We felt that the Governor and the Legislature of the State owed it to the people in the smaller communities for hundreds of miles around to give them the benefit of cheap electricity in their homes and their farms and their shops. And while the St. Lawrence project is still on paper, I have no doubt of its ultimate development and of the application of the policy of the widest possible use when the electric current starts to flow.

That is why in developing electricity from this Bonneville Dam, from the Grand Coulee Dam and from other dams to be built on the Columbia and its tributaries, the policy of the widest use ought to prevail. The transmission of electricity is making such scientific strides today that we can well visualize a date, not far distant, when every community in this great area will be wholly electrified.

It is because I am thinking of the Nation and the region fifty years from now that I venture the further prophecy that as time passes we will do everything in our power to encourage the building up of the smaller communities of the United States. Today many people are beginning to realize that there is inherent weakness in cities which become too large and inherent strength in a wider geographical distribution of population.

An over-large city inevitably meets problems caused by over-size. Real estate values and rents become too high; the time consumed in going from one's home to one's work and back again becomes excessive; congestion of streets and other transportation problems arise; truck gardens disappear because the background is too small; the cost of living of the average family rises far too high.

There is doubtless a reasonable balance in all of this and it is a balance which ought to be given more and more study. No one would suggest, for example, that the great cities of Port and, and Tacoma and Seattle and Spokane should stop their growth, but it is a fact that they could grow unhealthily at the expense of all the smaller communities of which they form logical centers. Their healthiest growth actually depends on a simultaneous healthy growth of every smaller community within a radius of hundreds of miles.

Your situation in the Northwest is in this respect no different from the situation in the other great regions of the Nation. That is why it has been proposed in the Congress that regional planning boards be set up for the purpose of coordinating the planning for the future in seven or eight natural geographical regions.

You will have read here as elsewhere many misleading and utterly untrue statements in some papers and by some politicians

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that this proposed legislation would set up all powerful authorities which would destroy State lines, take away local government and make what people call a totalitarian or authoritarian or some other kind of a dangerous national centralized control. Most people realize that the exact opposite is the truth — that regional commissions will be far more closely in touch with the needs of all the localities and all the people in their respective regions than a system of plans which originated in the Capital of the Nation. By decentralizing as I have proposed, the Chief Executive, the various government departments, and the Congress itself will be able to get from each region a carefully worked out plan each year — a plan based on future needs, a plan which will seek primarily to help all the people of the region without unduly favoring any one locality or discriminating against any other.

In other words, the responsibility of the Federal Government for the welfare of its citizens will not come from the top in the form of unplanned, hit or miss appropriations of money, but will progress to the National Capital from the ground up — from the communities and counties and states which lie within each of the logical geographical areas.

Another great advantage will be served by this process of planning from the bottom up. Under our laws the President submits to the Congress an Annual Budget — a budget which, by the way, we expect to have definitely balanced by the next fiscal year. In this budget we know how much can properly be expended for the development of our natural resources, the protection of our soil, the construction of our highways and buildings, the maintenance of our harbors and channels and all the other elements which fall under the general heading of public works. By regional planning it will be vastly easier for the Executive branch and the Congress to determine how the appropriations for the following year shall be fitted most fairly and equitably into the total amount which our national pocketbook allows us safely to spend.

To you who live thousands of miles away in other parts of the United States, I want to give two or three simple facts. This Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River, forty-two miles east of Portland, with Oregon on the south side of the river and Washington on the north, is one of the major power and navigation projects undertaken since 1933. It is 170 feet high and 1,250 feet long. It has been built by the Corps of Engineers of the War Department, and when fully completed, with ~~the~~ ^{part of} power installations, will cost \$51,000,000. Its locks will enable shipping to use this great waterway much further inland than at present, and give an outlet to the enormously valuable agricultural and mineral products of Oregon and Washington, and Idaho. Its generators will produce 580,000 horse power of electricity.

Truly, in the construction of this dam we have had our eyes on the future of the Nation. Its cost will be returned to the people of the United States many times over in the improvement of navigation and transportation, the cheapening of electric power, and the distribution of this power to hundreds of small communities within a great radius.

As I look upon Bonneville Dam today, I cannot help the thought that instead of spending, as some nations do, half their nation's income in piling up armaments and more armaments for purposes of war, we in America are wiser in using our wealth on projects like this which will give us more wealth, better living and greater happiness for our children.

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Geococcyx californianus
Gambel's Quail
Towhee
Cassin's Vireo

300

Red winged blackbird
Red winged
Mewgull