One of the most interesting problems was that of providing a method by which the salmon could pass from the ocean to the upstream portions of the Columbia and its tributaries, their natural spawning grounds. This great dam might have destroyed this valuable industry, but at one side of the dam there has been constructed a fish ladder—in other words, a series of steps over which water constantly flows, thus enabling the salmon to jump from step to step and reach the higher waters.

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 for purposes of war, we in America are wiser to use our wealth on projects like this which will give us more wealth, good living and greater happiness for our children.