

CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH M. MONTOYA

Dr. Corbett's Introductory Remarks:

The second man that we are very fortunate to have with us this afternoon is our own Congressman Joe Montoya. Everyone knows him as "Joe."

Congressman Montoya:

Thank you Dr. Corbett. Secretary Udall, Senator Anderson, Governor Campbell, ladies, and gentlemen. Roswell appropriately is the site today for this Conference. First, because it is playing host to the dedication of the Water Plant and secondly, because this area throughout my years in public life has been the pioneer in water research and conservation. I recall when I first went to the Legislature in 1937, I was serving with the distinguished pioneer and gentlemen from this area, E. O. Moore, who has had much to do with the development of the Hagerman-Dexter Soil Conservation District and the development of that particular area. Yes, water conservation means a lot to our country and because it means so much to our country, it means a great deal to the world. Because our country is the leader throughout the world, our country is the real light of hope for all peoples. Unless we continue to progress in this country, our freedoms may be challenged if we become weaker or if we maintain the status quo and that is why, ladies and gentlemen, I want to pass a word of great and sincere commendation to you. Because without men of dedication such as you, our water problems would be more severe and our country's plight would be more accentuated insofar as the needs for water are concerned.

We have here on this platform, two individuals who exemplify on the national landscape the real conservation that is being launched in this epoch known as the "Conservation Epoch" sponsored under the leadership of Secretary Udall. Yes, he served in the Congress with me and I know of his ideals. I knew what kind of man he was, but I never expected him to become the great leader in conservation that he has become. As Secretary of the Interior, he has interested himself in the problems of the West. And through the auspices of his great organization we have been able to lay proper foundations for progress in the future. And, of course, I need not tell you too much about Senator Anderson, I think the words spoken a few weeks ago in Washington when he was named unanimously by great leaders in conservation as "Mr. Conservation, U.S.A." explains the caliber of man and the great contribution which he has made.

But, I want to lay particular emphasis upon this point, that the western area of the United States cannot continue to unfold its vast potential unless the fruits of your labors begin to show on the horizon of our Western landscape. And, because of your dedicated efforts, I believe that we shall succeed, but in that success the future generations should not forget, as I do not today, that you deserve the commendation of all Americans for your dedication in this type of Conference. Thank you very much.