

Remarks of Rear Admiral William R Smedberg, III, USN,
on the Occasion of his Assuming Command of the United
States Naval Academy as Superintendent, March 15 1956

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REMARKS OF REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM R. SMEDBERG, III, USN, ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS ASSUMING COMMAND OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL
ACADEMY AS SUPERINTENDENT, ON 15 MARCH 1956

Governor McKeldin, Secretary Gates, Distinguished Guests, Faculty
and Staff of this Command, and Gentlemen of the Brigade.

To me, the Superintendency of the Naval Academy is the most
challenging and important assignment in the Naval Service.

I shall have but one objective here; to impart to you, with God's
help, my sincere belief that the strength of our Navy depends, basically,
upon the calibre and loyal dedication to Service and Country of the
graduates of this Academy.

It is my deep conviction, which I shall endeavor to pass on to you
Gentlemen of the Brigade, that the United States Navy is the key to the
continuing greatness of this Nation. Only as long as our Navy is able to
* guarantee the use of the Seas of the World to ourselves and all other free
nations, in peace or war, will we be allowed to enjoy our present freedoms,
privileges and heritages.

All regulations, orders, instructions and customs placed in effect
or observed by my predecessor will remain in effect unless later specifically
changed by me.

May I speak for all of us in wishing Admiral and Mrs. Boone Godspeed
and Good Luck.

* *we all go up or down together*

BEN MOREELL
3 GATEWAY CENTER
PITTSBURGH 22, PENNSYLVANIA

June 14, 1956

Dear Betty:

Many thanks for your telephone call. I am sorry I missed the privilege of talking with you.

I am glad you liked my telegram. It could not have been sent to a more deserving person, nor one whom I hold in higher regard.

I am sending a copy of a foreword written by Mr. Hoover for my forthcoming book on "Our Nation's Water Resources - Policies and Politics", which is a compilation of a series of five lectures which I delivered recently at the University of Chicago. The lectures are somewhat technical, so I will not burden you with them. However, if you are interested, I will be glad to send you a set.

Kindest regards and best wishes.

Very sincerely,

Ben

Admiral H. R. Stark, USN (Ret.)
4900 Glenbrook Road, N.W.
Washington 16, D. C.

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(Enclosure-1)

FOREWORD

WITH our growth in population and industry, our water supply and its use have become an urgent national problem.

Participation by the Federal Government in the development of water resources began with improvement of navigation soon after the founding of the Republic. As time has gone on, the Federal interest has expanded to flood control, irrigation, hydroelectric power and pollution abatement. Such major activities as were originally the mission of the States have been largely absorbed by the Federal Government. Over the years it has expended enormous sums and built a multitude of great and useful public works for better use of our water. As it stands today, the Federal Government practically controls the water resources of the Nation.

But in this huge expansion of Federal activities, there has been created a score of competing and overlapping agencies; there has been a lack of coordination of the different phases of development in the different river basins, and there is a great need for defined Federal policies.

In 1953, when by unanimous action the Congress created the Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, Admiral Ben Moreell was requested by the Commission to assemble a Task Force for exhaustive investigation and recommendations on the whole national water problem.

Admiral Moreell was a most distinguished Naval officer; he is a great executive and was an engineer by train-

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ing. Under his chairmanship, the Task Force embraced a membership of three Governors or former Governors, thirteen engineers, five lawyers, one accountant, two publishers, one business executive and one consultant in utility economics and finance.

Further, consultants to the Task Force and its research staff included eleven engineers, three lawyers, and six specialists in economics, government and agriculture. Almost all of the Task Force members gave their services without remuneration. None of them was connected with private utilities, but one had been connected with public power.

Their report is, in fact, the most far-reaching and penetrating inquiry into our water problems ever made in our history. From the assembling of the basic factual material, the Task Force made many recommendations as to the vigorous development of our water resources and the better organization of Federal Executive Agencies.

There is little contention as to their recommendations for development and administration in the fields of navigation, flood control and irrigation. There is, naturally, contention over some of the Task Force recommendations regarding public power. The Commission, in its recommendations to Congress, did not follow all of the Task Force recommendations in this field.

But the majority of the Commission and the unanimous views of Admiral Moreell and his Task Force were in complete agreement with President Eisenhower that "creeping Socialism" — to use the President's expression — had found great expansion in the power field.

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Admiral Moreell and his colleagues took a strong stand in their recommendations that our latent water power should be developed but that it should be developed within the frame-work of the traditional American philosophy; that is, that the whole economic and social foundation of our country is based on private enterprise, regulated to prevent unfair competition or monopoly, and that the Federal Government should undertake no private enterprise type of business except when the people cannot do it for themselves. That often implies that the Government should construct huge multiple-purpose dams for flood control, navigation, irrigation and power; but it also implies that private enterprises should be brought into partnership to carry on the electric power end of such projects.

Admiral Moreell's lectures are the embodiment of this philosophy, of which he is one of the Nation's leading evangelists. But in these lectures he goes further to present an over-all policy for the constructive development of all our water resources. He also sounds a strong warning that the present generation should not freeze the water uses of the future by indiscriminate and ill-advised, short-term proposals.

I commend this book to our citizens as a beacon in the search for a solution of our water problems. The Nation owes a great debt to Admiral Moreell and his associates.

HERBERT HOOVER

New York City
May, 1956

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