



Dr. Donald C. Roush, Acting President of New Mexico State University, delivered the welcoming address at the 25th Annual New Mexico Water Conference.

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Donald C. Roush
Acting President
New Mexico State University

Thank you very much, Tom Bahr. Your introduction was longer than my talk this morning! Well, welcome to warm, sunny, lovely Las Cruces. Sorry that the weather has turned bad for this conference.

It is a real pleasure to welcome all of you to the 25th Annual New Mexico Water Conference on the campus of New Mexico State. As Tom told you, I have been the Acting President since January 1 and have until July 1 to go, so I'm a little better than halfway through now. I told some folks the other day that I thought I could see the light at the end of the tunnel and they said, "Yeah. I hope it's not another train coming through." So if we do not have "too many trains coming through" between now and July 1, I think we will be OK.

The comments I receive as Acting President are not nearly as bad as those sometimes received as the Vice President. One day I was walking across the campus as one of our retired professors was strolling along. I overtook him and struck up a conversation. I said, "My, you look just fantastic!" He said, "Well, thank you, Don. I'm feeling well." I said, "Do you really like retirement?" "Oh," he said, "I just love it. It's far better than anything I ever expected." I said, "I sure am looking forward to the day when I can retire." And without hesitation he said, "Yeah, Don, there are a lot of other people around here looking forward to that day, too!"

It seems appropriate after a quarter century of water research to say a few words about New Mexico and New Mexico's heritage in solving water problems through research.

Of course, the first name that comes to my mind is Ralph Stucky. Dr. Stucky organized the first water conference eight years before the federal government recognized the need to promote water research by the Water Resources Research Act of 1964. Senator Clinton P. Anderson and Representative Tom Morris of New Mexico, whom I am sure many of you remember, were instrumental in the passage of this federal legislation. Ralph Stucky will probably go into more detail about the early history of the Institute in his talk, so I will say no more about that.

The 1964 act authorized the creation of water resources research institutes in each of the states. Congress initially provided funding to create 14 state institutes. Because of the active program already in place in New Mexico and Senator Anderson's interest, the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute was the first in the country to be approved and has gone on to register significant accomplishments.

You will be pleased to learn that our state's water institute led the nation in Office of Water Research and Technology Matching Grants this year; and this is a great credit to Tom Bahr and his team of people, and our statewide council. We were in the top ten in total OWRT research funding, in competition with such populous states as New York and California. Quite an achievement indeed. It

is fitting, in this 25th anniversary year that we not only review our past leadership, but also examine our productive present, and look ahead to our promising future. It pays to plan ahead. Remember, it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

It is also fitting and most thoughtful of Governor King to issue a proclamation recognizing the quarter century of progress of water research which he has asked me to present at the start of this conference today.

I quote from the proclamation:

"WHEREAS, water is the life blood of the state of New Mexico and the state's future social, economic and cultural development depends on a continuing supply of good quality water; and

WHEREAS, the limited water resources of New Mexico must be used in a judicious manner and their care, use and development should be the responsibility of all the citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, this is the Silver Anniversary of the New Mexico Water Conference, which annually focuses on water resource problems and seeks ways to protect the present level of quality water and reclaim and reconvert water; and

WHEREAS, to afford official recognition of the importance of water to the welfare of all people of New Mexico;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRUCE KING, Governor of the state of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim the week of April 20 through 26, 1980, as:

'WATER FOR NEW MEXICO WEEK'

and urge all citizens of our state to pay special attention during the proclaimed week to the importance of our present and future water supplies.

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 15TH DAY OF APRIL, 1980.

BRUCE KING, GOVERNOR"

Tom, it is a pleasure to present this proclamation to you on behalf of Governor King.