

Richard L. Thomas, Jr.<sup>1/</sup>

### Biographical Sketch



Rick Thomas is president of the Associated Students of New Mexico State University. ASNMSU is the organization of the students of the university which is responsible for sponsoring many varied programs. In addition to the cultural programs, it brings name entertainers to campus and sponsors student publications.

Mr. Thomas, veteran of the armed forces, will graduate in May, 1971, with a major in agricultural economics.

His interests are in resources, anti-pollution laws and enforcement and state and local government finances.

He plans to attend Graduate School at New Mexico State University to study Economics.

Rick's activities include Aggie Rodeo Association, Sigma Chi National Fraternity, Student Senate, President of Associated Students, American Agricultural Economics Association and his honors include Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

Rick was born in Washington, D. C. and is now a resident of Los Alamos, New Mexico.

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This session will be devoted to University students speaking on water in a quality environment. the Sixteenth Annual New Mexico Water Conference Planning Committee has decided to make the student papers session a major part this year's conference. Their hopes are that the students can contribute to the theme in educational value of the overall conference.

The committee's reasons for including student papers are two-fold: (1) to give the students of the region an opportunity to become involved profession-

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ally in working on the water problems of the southwest, and (2) to give an educational opportunity for the rest of the participants of the conference to gain a better understanding of what students may be thinking.

After the decision had been made to include students in the conference program, some 30 colleges and universities in the southwest were contacted. The students at each university were invited to submit papers to the student paper committee. The papers were invited from multidisciplinary subject matter areas. They were to include such disciplines as engineering, biological sciences, social sciences, law and ethics. However, the central theme of the papers were required to have dealt with some aspect of water resources.

The papers that were submitted were then screened by the student paper committee. The committee was composed of Professor Jesse Lunsford, Civil Engineering; Dr. Gary Cunningham, Biology; and the Chairman, Dr. James R. Gray, Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business. Those papers being presented here today were chosen by the committee as being the most informative and educational, as well as the closest to the theme of the conference -- "Water, A Key to a Quality Environment."