

**The original documents are located in Box 61, folder “1976/09/07 - Teton Dam Relief Signing Ceremony” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

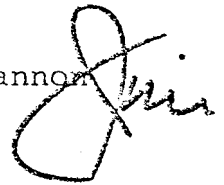
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SIGNING OF THE TETON DAM RELIEF  
LEGISLATION

Tuesday, September 7, 1976  
11:00 a.m. (15 minutes)  
Rose Garden

From: Jim Cannon



I. PURPOSE

To sign Teton Dam Relief Legislation.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

On the morning of June 5, 1976, the Bureau of Reclamation's new Teton Dam in Idaho burst, causing widespread injury, death and destruction. Final statistics include:

- A total of 11 dead, including 6 drownings.
- Property damage estimated at between \$500 million and \$1 billion.

On Sunday, June 6, 1976, at the request of Governor Cecil D. Andrus of Idaho, you declared a major disaster authorizing Federal assistance to the victims. You had called Governor Andrus Saturday night and informed him that we would do everything possible to assist the State.

On June 11, 1976, you sent to the Congress a request for a supplemental appropriation of \$200 million to provide payments for the victims of the flood damage. This was included in the public works appropriations legislation you signed on July 12, 1976. Compensation of claims began soon after under existing reclamation law.

On June 9, Senators Frank Church and James McClure introduced S. 3542, which has the effect of formalizing the compensation procedure previously set up by the Interior Department. The bill allows the Federal Govern-

ment to pay claims for property damage, death and personal injury which took place as a direct result of the dam's collapse. These claims will be paid from the \$200 million already appropriated, and you have said that if more money is needed, more will be requested. As of August 11, 1976, 1,890 claims totaling \$68 million have been filed with the Department of Interior.

B. Participants

Attached (list of people invited but final confirmation not until Tuesday AM).

C. Press Plan

White House Press Corps. Photo opportunity.

III. TALKING POINTS

To be submitted by Bob Orben.

PARTICIPANTS

Congressional

Co-sponsors: Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho)  
Senator James A. McClure (R-Idaho)

Committee: Senator Paul J. Fannin (R-Arizona)  
Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Oregon)  
Senator Henry M. Jackson (D-Washington)

House: Congressman Philip Crane (R-Illinois)  
Congressman George Danielson (D-California)  
Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr. (R-New York)  
Congressman Walter Flowers (D-Alabama)  
Congressman Gilbert Gude (R-Maryland)  
Congressman George Hansen (R-Idaho)  
Congresswoman Barbara Jordan (D-Texas)  
Congressman Romano L. Mazzoli (D-Kentucky)  
Congressman William Moorhead (D-Pennsylvania) ✓  
Congressman Edward W. Pattison (D-New York) ↑  
Congressman Leo J. Ryan (D-California)  
Congressman Steve Symms (R-Idaho)

Governments Officials

Earl L. Butz, Secretary of Agriculture  
William E. Crockett, Deputy Administrator, Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, (FDAA)  
Thomas P. Dunne, Administrator, FDAA  
Carla A. Hills, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
Thomas S. Kleppe, Secretary of the Interior  
Mitchel Kobelenski, Administrator of Small Business Administration (SBA)  
William H. Mayer, Regional Administrator, FDAA  
Gilbert G. Stamm, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation  
Stephen Farber, Representative for Governor Andrus of Idaho

Public Interest Groups

Marvin E. Eld, Director, Teton Interfaith Disaster Task Force  
George M. Elsey, President, American National Red Cross  
C. Nelson Hostetter, Executive Coordinator, Mennonite Disaster Service  
Cornelis Molenaar, Director, World Relief Committee, Christian Reformed Church  
Colonel George L. Nelting, Regional Commander, The Salvation Army  
Mark G. Ricks, Local Disaster Coordinator, Church of Jesus Crhist