

to the Allegheny Power System and the Duquesne Light Company for their continued effort to expand and improve power service through the construction of the Fort Martin Power Station.

All progress is immediately and intimately related to the constructive use of power whether it is political or electrical. The vital role our private utility companies have played in generating progress through generating electrical power merits both public recognition and appreciation. Too often we fail to realize that readily available, reasonably priced electrical power is a prime resource and a primary factor in economic development. In our technologically sophisticated society, electricity, like good health, is taken for granted until or unless we don't have it.

In much the same way the smooth, efficient operations and cooperation of our private utility companies are usually assumed axiomatic; and unless an occasion like today's dedication arises, we rarely articulate our appreciation for their productivity and private investment which so greatly benefit the total public.

Certainly, the Fort Martin Power Station will serve as an exciting adjunct to the Federal, State, regional and local economic development efforts which have been emphasized in this area. This private investment marks a major contribution to public progress. While there is an obvious need for the continued concentration of resources from the public sector of our economy in this region, the willingness of the private sector to invest here demonstrates that we are attaining our objectives. The provision of expanded power will serve as a further and necessary incentive to encourage and facilitate additional private investment.

The beauty and untapped resources of this region commend its development, yet access and electricity are required to fulfill its potential. The states of Maryland and West Virginia are making every effort, diverting every highway construction dollar possible, to speed the construction of the Appalachian National Freeway. This will offer expanded access. The cooperation of the Allegheny Power System and the Duquesne Light Company has assured the other primary requisite — power.

Therefore, the dedication of the Fort Martin Power Station has dual significance. It marks the culmination of a great private investment effort and provides the foundation for even greater private investment in the future. Thus, today symbolizes even more a beginning than a completion. It is even more than a dedication of a building; it is a dedication to progress — and there is no finer, greater or more exciting type of dedication to celebrate.