

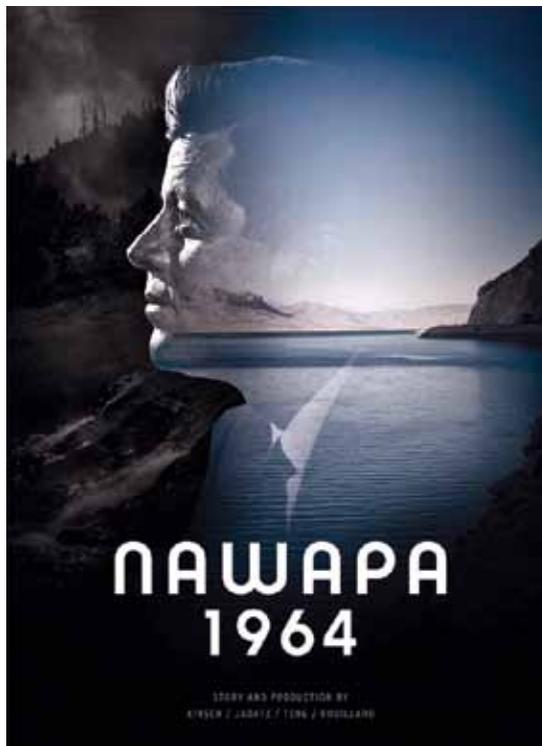
A NEVER-BEFORE-TOLD STORY

## NAWAPA 1964: The Fight for The Great Water Project

Released on Thanksgiving 2011, the LPAC-TV documentary “NAWAPA 1964” [www.la.rouchepac.com/node/20446](http://www.la.rouchepac.com/node/20446) is the true story of the fight for the North American Water and Power Alliance, a plan first put forward by the Ralph M. Parsons Co. It spans the period of the 1960s and early '70s, and is told primarily through the words of Utah Sen. Frank Moss (D), who led the fight in Congress to pass the legislation. The video presents historic footage, rarely, or never seen before by the American public, including extraordinary films of President John F. Kennedy calling for a national commitment to great projects, especially water projects.

Michael Kirsch, a member of the LaRouchePAC Basement research team, which produced the video, answered questions from EIR Managing Editor Bonnie James on Dec. 11.

**EIR:** The new LPAC video “NAWAPA 1964” has a lot of material that has not been seen before, or at least



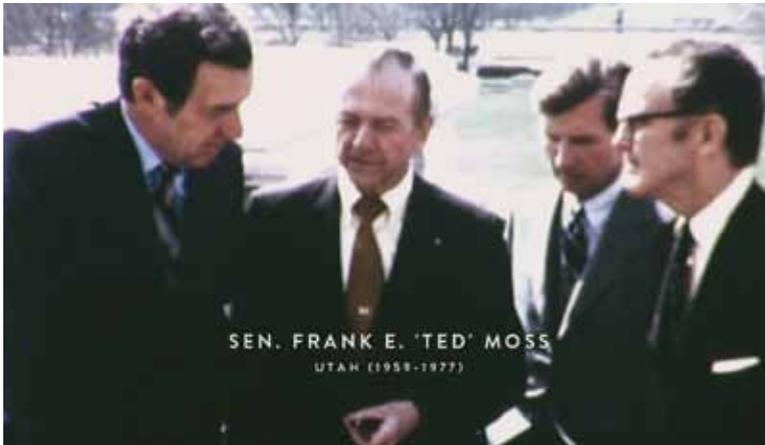
“NAWAPA 1964” situates the political fight for the great North American water project within the dramatic historical events of the 1960s and '70s, showing how the project was ultimately defeated by the paradigm-shift identified with the “68ers.”

not by the vast majority of people. This includes the footage of President Kennedy, giving several speeches about the importance of water projects for the Western United States. Can you say more about this?

**Kirsch:** This is a little-known and buried element of JFK’s understanding and administration. Most people are not aware of the depth of his understanding and commitment to an economy based on technological progress, and a measurement of value found in that understanding, and not found by watching the market, or talking about money.

In putting together the film “NAWAPA 1964,” a drama in which all of the events are occurring after JFK’s death, I received some help from the archives in finding this incredible collection of his actions related toward water and power projects.

Ninety-nine point nine percent of all Americans have never seen, or for that matter heard, these speeches from 1962 and 1963. And just as I was, any patriot will



*Sen. Frank Moss (center), led a relentless fight in Congress for NAWAPA, and succeeded in winning widespread support.*

be absolutely shocked to realize what had been kept out of our reach for so long, until myself and others have made this accessible to people at LaRouchePAC.com.

### **FDR to JFK: A Generational Commitment**

**EIR:** A theme of Kennedy’s speeches in Colorado, South Dakota, and Utah was clearly the idea that we must carry out these great projects “for those who come after us,” as he put it. And also, his view that we must begin to provide what he called “the same rich inheritance” that his generation enjoyed from those who came before. It seems this philosophy is very far removed from that of today’s politicians.

**Kirsch:** Both for its own sake, and as supplementary material to “NAWAPA 1964,” I put together a video record with introductions of six of Kennedy’s great speeches mentioned, and recommend both films being watched in conjunction. The video record is called “JFK’s Speeches Toward a Nationwide TVA” ([www.larouchepac.com/reclaimjfk](http://www.larouchepac.com/reclaimjfk)).

On Aug. 17 and 18, 1962, JFK took a short, but long desired trip to the West, to dedicate three great water and power projects, leading him to declare that year the banner year for reclamation, with the most new project starts since President Franklin Roo-



*The Ralph M. Parsons Co. developed the original plans for NAWAPA, and collaborated with Senator Moss in promoting the project, which was intended to re-engineer the entire water system of the North American continent.*

sevelt, as Truman’s Administration, directed from the British Foreign office, had done everything in its power to halt national development projects.

At reclamation dedications at South Dakota, Colorado, and California, JFK’s true colors are fully brought to light, as regards his understanding of the productive powers of labor, as the essential basis of physical economics, rather than monetarism. Along with discussing the legacy of Franklin Roosevelt, the Rural Electrification Association, he advances the generational concept of national planning, and state infrastructure projects as a national responsibility.

Kennedy emphasizes the economic principle of constantly acting toward the next higher step of growth in order to move ahead in the present, how Western water development shows man’s ability to willfully determine his own conditions, rather than being subject to chance, which should be the obvious role of government. Kennedy follows the same, but further developed course, in September and October of 1963, which are also documented in the second half of this video.

The audiences of this video and “NAWAPA 1964,” are given a very clear mooring point to which they can return.

Part of the passion which drove the production of “NAWAPA 1964” was to make it understood by the older generation still guiding policy, what we were, and where we went, and what it is that is still worth fighting to revive, even in the face of what appears to be a terrible ignorance that has taken over



*The Vietnam War not only killed tens of thousands of American soldiers, and uncounted numbers of Vietnamese, it also killed NAWAPA, by shifting the nation's focus from great projects to the war, and demoralizing an entire generation of young people.*

## The Paradigm-Shift of the 1960s

**EIR:** The tragic loss of JFK, and of his brother Bobby five years later, combined with the onset of the Vietnam War, and the eruption of the “Sixty-eighter” movement, as well-documented in the film, ensured that NAWAPA would be buried at the time. The comment by LBJ—who, as someone said, “likes Texas-size plans”—that NAWAPA should be pursued, “if and when the Vietnam War is settled,” is telling.

**Kirsch:** “NAWAPA 1964” is a tragedy, but what makes it most interesting is the fact that it is a document of the actual process which took place—the major shift of our nation into disaster—based on actual occurrences, and the project which represented the culmination of a Kennedy shift toward greatness.

It shows how ideas or plans of action are in reality not determined by themselves and the people involved in them alone, but are shaped entirely by intentions and cultural mooring points.

**EIR:** The shift from the 1960s Kennedy-era “can-do” drive for real progress, to the zero-growth, anti-population policies that erupted in the 1970s, was powerfully illustrated in the video. How did the radical environmentalist movement, especially as shaped by Prince Philip’s World Wildlife Fund, founded in 1961, impact the pro-development orientation epitomized by President Kennedy?

**Kirsch:** One point of clarification which “NAWAPA 1964” shows, starting from JFK’s nation-building program, and ending with the early 1970s, is that the reason NAWAPA was not built has nothing at all to do with the environmentalist movement. This may be a shock for a lot of people who, in the last 30 years, have come head to head with the “mankind is inherently destructive” axiom of the environmentalist movement everytime they have tried to build anything new, and develop any scientific project; however, the existence and toleration of the murderous program of the environmentalist movement has the same cause as the failure of NAWAPA, and therefore one effect could not be the cause of another effect.

In other words, NAWAPA was never built because of the phase-shift that occurred in the wake of JFK’s death, including the Vietnam War, and assassination of his brother, who was the last member of government to speak without fear or restraint as to the necessary direc-

and brought us to the point threatened extinction.

**EIR:** I was struck by how much support and activity there was for the NAWAPA project at the time—the collaboration between the Parsons Co., which came up with the plan, and Sen. Frank Moss of Utah, who led the fight for it in Congress, which won over many members of Congress. Why do you think this is little known today?

**Kirsch:** The intention to make the NAWAPA project a reality today caused us to exhaust all sources of historical information and data available, and in that process, someone else who was knowledgeable on the subject was prompted by our revived intention, to alert us to the greatest source. This, of course, was the Senate office correspondence of Frank Moss himself, which is the only place to get the real story.

Now, why no one had produced a film based on the correspondence until now, has its cause in the same place as where our inspiration to make this film lies.



*The events of 1968—the Columbia University strike, the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, and the Chicago Democratic Convention riots, combined with the disastrous war in Vietnam—ultimately forced the pro-NAWAPA President Lyndon Johnson to resign. The project has lain dormant since then. But it is now being revived by LaRouchePAC.*



tion of the nation’s future. Similarly, the environmentalist movement was tolerated and made possible as an avenue for destroying the culture of technological progress, because a vacuum had been created, where earlier, there was no space for such a disgusting view of mankind to reside.

For the attentive member of the audience, who is willing to challenge his or her assumptions, this historical record of the role of environmentalist ideas in 1964 and 1965 could be one of the most alarming facts they will glean from “NAWAPA 1964.”

### Three Films To Watch, and Then Act

**EIR:** As a young person, whose entire life has been shaped by the no-growth, anti-science paradigm, do you think there is a chance to return to the outlook that characterized the FDR-JFK period?

**Kirsch:** The chance is not something to be left to chance, but is going to be determined by whether actions are taken by people who understand what it meant to be an American under President Kennedy, and what the pre-Truman outlook he was related to felt like, and was based on.

“NAWAPA 1964,” along with the more complete documentation of a number of his full speeches which demonstrate his full understanding and action toward an economy driven by technological progress as a measurement of value—“JFK Speeches Toward a Nationwide TVA,” and “Who We Fight Part: Episode II,” [www.larouchepac.com/node/20380](http://www.larouchepac.com/node/20380) which details the Truman shift, which Kennedy was overturning—are three videos will help make this understood.

I cannot overstate the importance for all readers to take the time to watch these three films, and con-

tribute as much as you can to LaRouchePAC, both financially, and by political action, and in so doing, continue to bring to bear this great inheritance, and to right the wrongs which have befallen our nation, due to its absence.

*All illustrations are from “NAWAPA 1964.”*



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**... until now.**

<http://larouchepac.com/nawapa1964>