

CS/H 247 & 576 PRESERVE ACEQUIA AND DITCH WATER RIGHTS

April 5, 2001

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 65

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 247 AND 576, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2001.

This bill exempts acequia and community ditch associations from forfeiture of water rights due to a failure to put water to beneficial use. Through state-approved water conservation programs, there already exists a mechanism for these organizations to protect their water rights. I see no need to make certain water users above the law.

H 268 NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL APPROPRIATION

March 12, 2001

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 5

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE BILL 268, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2001.

This bill appropriates \$100,000 to contribute to the national World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. I have already signed into law Senate Bill 100, as amended, which appropriated \$100,000 for this same purpose. As I understand it, our contribution of \$100,000 via Senate Bill 100 places New Mexico well above most states with a similar number of World War II veterans, and that the state memorial campaign has already surpassed its fundraising goal of \$15 million. While I support the purpose of this bill and applaud the Legislature for its efforts in passing legislation to fund this worthy endeavor, I believe that a second appropriation for the memorial is unnecessary.