"It is the right and duty of the Upper Colorado River Commission to insist that the agencies of the United States which perform the ministerial duty of administration of Glen Canyon Reservoir should fill it to capacity as expeditiously as the flow of the river will permit without infringement on the rights of upstream or downstream users as recognized or established by the Colorado River Compact." (Colorado resolution, adopted by the Upper Colorado River Commission on September 21, 1959.)

"When this case boils down to brass tacks, what we are talking about is who is going to get the power."

With these words, Clair Engle put his California finger on the Glen Canyon filling issue. That was in October 1957, during the first round of a bitter interstate water fight that caught Colorado unprepared. Now, many rounds later, Colorado is prepared and the issue is about to be decided. Decision maker: Secretary of the Interior.

Outgoing Secretary Fred Seaton sat on the Glen Canyon filling decision. Seaton's stall gives the Glen Canyon ball to incoming Secretary Stewart Udall who will be playing against a time clock. Udall will have to take a shot at the Glen Canyon issue soon, because filling is expected to start in 1962. When he takes his shot, the entire West will be watching.

Why?

It's a complicated story. But it's worth the reading time of every water user in Colorado.

_Glen Canyon Dam_ is mainstem kingpin of the Upper Colorado River Storage Project. Glen's tributary partners: _Navajo_ on San Juan River in New Mexico, _Flaming Gorge_ on Green River in Wyoming, _Curecanti_ on Gunnison in Colorado. All four are under construction. Big Glen will store 28 million acre feet (81% of 4-dam total)… will produce 900,000 kilowatts (81%)… will cost $364 million.
Glen Canyon Dam is located in Arizona, 13 miles downstream from the Utah state line, just upstream from the Colorado River Compact control point Lee Ferry. Because of its size and location, Glen holds most of the upper basin's water and power cards in the interbasin water game.

Downstream below Glen... the lower basin's Hoover Dam. Hoover's measurements: 30 MAF and 1.25 MKW. Glen will help Hoover, after Glen fills. But Hoover can't help Glen. Built cheaply during the depression, Hoover can pay-out easily in 50 years (by 1987), even though its projected water supply was badly overestimated.

Glen's power revenues will be directly related to the amount of storage in Lake Powell behind Glen Dam. Higher storage means more power revenue from each acre foot passing through Glen Powerplant. Glen needs 15.8 million acre feet in storage for full power production. Below 15.8 MAF, inefficient use of water for power. Below 6.5 MAF, no power.

Upper basin wants to fill Lake Powell to 15.8 MAF as quickly as is possible under provisions of the Colorado River Compact... wants to hold storage above 15.8 as much of the time as possible.

Lower basin wants to use Glen's filling water for storage in Lake Mead behind Hoover Dam and for flow through Hoover Powerplant. It's Hoover power against Glen power, they say, with Hoover having first priority. Justification: Hoover was first in time and has firm power contract obligations to meet.

Southern Californians have been enjoying dirt cheap Hoover power for years. Hoover's authorizing legislation provided for a competitive rate for sale of Hoover power. But Southern California power contractees weren't satisfied with the price they had to pay for Hoover power. In 1940 they persuaded Congress to pass the Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act.

BCPAA changed Hoover power sales from a competitive power rate (1940 prices) to an amortization basis sufficient to repay project construction cost by 1987 at
3% interest and also to pay certain other assigned charges. This change has thus far saved Southern Californians \$28 million in power costs.

Instead of paying 8 mills per kilowatt hour (competitive rate) for Hoover's firm hydroelectric energy in 1961, Southern Californians are paying between 4.5 and 5.0 mills. If Hoover power had been sold at a competitive rate each year since 1940, the rate difference would have cost Southern Californians about \$110 million!

If the Hoover power contractees would now switch back to a competitive power rate basis, Boulder Canyon Project wouldn't need to tap the upper basin's Glen Canyon power cash register. But they won't do it. They want to eat their power cake and have it too.

Under the Adjustment Act, power contracts were made by the Secretary of Interior with Southern California power allottees. Los Angeles Dep't of Water and Power was made the government's generating agency. Contracts were all subject to provisions of the Colorado River Compact.

Lower basin position on Glen filling: Power contracts must be fulfilled, regardless of the Colorado River Compact. Boulder Canyon Project amortization is based on an established firm power generation schedule. Firm power deficiencies under this schedule caused by Glen must be compensated for by the upper basin, either in electric energy or in cash.

Lower basin water interests don't want upper basin depletions to increase. Some (like Metropolitan Water District) are living on borrowed Colorado River water following the Rifkind decision in the Arizona-California suit. They want to delay giving up this water to upstream owners. One means of delay: Slow down UCRSP participating project development by slowing down Glen's financial assistance.

Upper basin position: Colorado River Compact doesn't require upper basin to maintain Hoover's firm energy generation. The Compact contemplated changes in lower basin water supply as the upper basin builds new projects to make use of its allocated water. Boulder Canyon Project amortization schedule and firm power
contracts should be adjusted for the lower-than-expected water supply conditions. Hoover firm power deficiencies should be made up by power purchases using Boulder Canyon Project money, not by taking upper basin money.

Caught in the middle... Bureau of Reclamation and Secretary of Interior. But the Secretary didn't stay in the middle... or so it seems to Colorado and the other upper basin states.

Last February, Secretary of Interior released USBR's proposed principles and operating criteria to govern the filling of Glen, labeled them tentative, asked for comment from basin states prior to making final decision. These criteria would require the upper basin to make up deficiencies in Hoover's firm energy generation caused by Glen being on the river. Commissioner Dominy called USBR's proposed criteria "an equitable and practicable approach that results in the best use of the natural resource.... falling water."

USBR approach: Obtain maximum overall use of Colorado River water for power. The principle of fulfilling Hoover's firm power contracts is a principle of equity rather than a principle of law. Stay clear of the no man's land involving interpretation of the intent and meaning of the Colorado River Compact.

Upper basin reaction: Bitter realization that Interior's proposed filling criteria for Glen would cost upper basin states unknown millions of dollars (probably $30 to $55 million not counting interest).... plus serious delay in development of participating irrigation projects.

Upper Colorado River Commission vigorously rejected Interior's tentative criteria. Then Seaton sat out the administration clock, handed the Glen Canyon hot potato to Udall.

Colorado's position: No compromise on power revenues which belong to the upper basin under the Colorado River Compact. Possible concession: Might agree to have Glen make up Hoover deficiencies if lower basin agrees to return this deficiency
make up money to Glen after 1987.

Glen outlook: Not good. Lower basin men occupy Interior's policy making jobs. Also, there is not complete agreement within the four states of the Upper Colorado River Commission regarding a firm Glen Canyon stand.

Colorado's hope: Congressional power, particularly Colorado's Wayne Aspinall, chairman of House Interior Committee... plus New Mexico's Clinton Anderson, chairman of Senate Interior Committee, if he will stay hitched. These are the two most powerful posts in Congress for Western water development.

If the Secretary's final filling criteria are adverse, there still could be a later change by the Secretary, although this possibility seems remote.

Dark cloud on the Colorado River horizon: Probability of an eventual interbasin lawsuit of major proportions, instituted by Southern California water interests.

Excuse: The need to interpret the Colorado River Compact and related documents.

Real reason: To delay new upstream depletions.

Ramifications of current Colorado River problems extend beyond the Upper Colorado River Storage Project. Never has there been a greater need for an informed and united group of water users in Colorado.


Wilbur Dexheimer, former USBR commissioner from Denver, is returning to the Orient with stops scheduled for Bangkok, Manila, Taipei. Dexheimer is a free lance engineering consultant.

Ed C. Johnson, former governor and three times U.S. Senator from Colorado, celebrated his 77th birthday on New Year's Day. Colorado's representative on the
Upper Colorado River Commission told a reporter that the perfect present would be to get Glen Canyon Reservoir full of water.

Johnson: "I say this unashamedly. This project is the most important thing I've worked for in my long public life. And I intend to see it through!"

Harold H. Christy is Four-States Irrigation Council's Headgate Award winner for Colorado. FSIC represents irrigation companies and districts in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming... makes annual award to a man from each state for outstanding contributions to irrigation progress. Christy is Sup't of Water and Power at Colorado Fuel and Iron Co., Pueblo. Also is Colorado's NRA director and is NRA vice president.

C. Val Marmaduke was elected District Attorney at Glenwood Springs, succeeding Robert Delaney. Marmaduke was special assistant to the U.S. Attorney in Denver for 18 years, was involved in Colorado River litigation. Ed Dutcher of Gunnison succeeds Charles E. Blaine of Delta as district judge. Judge Dan Hughes represented Colorado water interests on Colorado Civil Service Commissioner's 7-man selection board for game and fish directorship.

Dr. George O. G. Lof will demonstrate his new solar energy device at the world conference on new sources of energy in Rome next August. Lof, a consulting chemical engineer in Denver, is U. S. representative on World Conference's solar energy planning committee. Lof's latest is described as "the world's newest device for using solar energy to desalt sea water, cook food, heat and cool homes".

Edward J. Voss has been re-elected president of Orchard Mesa Irrigation District. Despite two canal breaks, Voss' district delivered more irrigation water last year than in previous years. Robert K. Lewis of Colona was re-elected president of Tri-County Water Conservancy District.

Ernest A. Ramstetter, widely known Jefferson County rancher and livestock breeder died recently following a short illness. Ramstetter was Colorado Water Congress rules committee member, was one of CWC's original organizers.
John Barnard, Sr. attended the Kennedy-Johnson Natural Resources Advisory Committee meeting Jan. 17 in Wash. D.C. K-J committee heard a report based on recommendations made by 200 committee members representing almost all states. Incidentally, Utah water users formed a new committee "to function with the national (Kennedy-Johnson) organization in the development of natural resources existing in the state". Utah water users sent two delegates to the Washington meeting.

J. Selby Young of Colorado Springs represented Colorado Water Congress as keynote speaker at Farmers' Luncheon, a Pikes Peak region meeting group devoted to discussion of farm and ranch problems. Young is former CWC vice chairman.

Wyoming's Gov. Joe Hickey was elected chairman of the committee of governors whose states are in the Missour River basin. But someone else will have to chair the governors at MissourlBasin Inter-Agency Committee meetings because Hickey appointed himself Senator. He is on the Senate Rules Committee and also the Interior Committee.

David J. Miller (Greeley attorney and CWCB member) and Samuel Chutkow (Denver attorney and member of Colorado Ground Water Commission) have submitted a report on ground water problems. Miller and Chutkow were retained as consultants to CWCB on ground water problems. Report lists physical, legal, administrative problems. Recommends that Colorado's ground water law be amended at the current legislative session "To declare that the ground water or public waters belong to the people... To strengthen the registration provisions... To amplify the powers of the Ground Water Commission... To prevent pollution of ground water... To provide a realistic definition of the term 'tributary'".

J. R. Barkley, Secretary-Manager of N. Colo. Water Conservancy District, reports that the 1960 irrigation season demonstrated the value of integrated water system operations. Practically no effective growing season rain fell on NCWCD lands after mid-June. Imported supplemental Colorado-Big Thompson Project water "was applied to crops at exactly the right time and in amounts required for optimum
production". Result: Excellent crops, in spite of drouth conditions.

Barkley: "Such a position is only possible through the coordinated and judicious use of the water resources of some 120 ditch systems and 9 municipal systems into which Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District was able to integrate an imported water supply constituting nearly 40 percent of the total late season water resource".

Note these legislators who attended the Jan. 11th meeting of the Colorado Water Conservation Board: Senators Dale Tursi (Pueblo), Richard Hobbs (Pueblo), Hestia Wilson (Nucla), Floyd Oliver (Greeley), Ted Gill (Hillrose), Rena Mary Taylor (Balisade), Wm. Bledsoe (Hugo), L.P. Strain (La Junta) .... Representatives Bill Gossard (Meeker), Ray Farr (Sugar City), Arthur Wyatt (Durango), Elizabeth Pellet (Rico).

Elizabeth Pellet is chairman of the new natural resources committee (water and mining) of the Colorado House of Representatives. Committee members: Kenneth Fenwick (Wheat Ridge), Frank Evans (Pueblo), Edwin Lamm (Grand Jct.), Noble Love (La Salle), Hiram Mc Neil (Montrose), Clarence Quinlan (Antonito), John Streltzer (Denver), Laurence Thomson (Leadville), Wyatt and Gossard. Quinlan is a member of the Colorado Water Congress executive committee.

Wilkie Ham of Lamar is chairman of the water resources committee of the Colorado Senate. Committee members: Chas. Bennett (Denver), Dr. James Donnelly (Trinidad), Ed Byrne (Denver), Allegra Saunders (Denver), Fay De Berard (Kremmling), Harry Locke (Hartsel), Ed Miller (Johnstown), Oliver, Wilson, Gill, Hobbs and Tursi.

Note this date for state water appropriations hearings: February 4th... 8AM Natural Resources Dep't... 10 AM State Engineer.... 10:30 AM Colorado Water Conservation Board. Support your state water agencies.

Harry R. Woodward, director of South Dakota's Dept of Game & Fish is Colorado's new G & F Dep't director. Middle Park Times published a paper by Woodward prepared for a foresters society meeting (11-15-60) in Washington. It contained some Colorado water user eyebrowlifers.
Woodward: "To accomplish the overall goal of managing the game and fish resources for maximum human enjoyment there needs to be continuing programs of legislation which will insure such things as the recognition of game and fish in water use allocations and access to public lands... Constant guard must be maintained to protect wildlife from the damaging effects of detrimental legislation favoring other objectives... However, the public in general and the organized sportsmen in particular have done well in demanding that politics stay out of game and fish programs."

Appointment of Kenneth Holm as assistant secretary of interior for water and power indicates growing public power strength. Holm is a S. Dakota farm leader, official of several rural electric organizations, had strong public power backing. Los Angeles Times anticipates growing influence for Clyde T. Ellis, "creator and master" of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Los Angeles Times: "Perhaps Ellis will be passed over (for undersecretary) and later given another job. But it is certain that the formidable power of Ellis and his organization will be a major policy determining factor in the interior department for years to come." (12-24-60)

Upper basin weakness on water and power job: Couldn't unite behind a single upper basin water man. Also, it appeared that lower basin's interior dept strength (Udall and Carr) is balanced by upper basin's congressional strength (Aspinall and Anderson).

Gov. Pat Brown of California is having more water bond troubles. Northern Cal. legislators of Brown's own political party are preparing to introduce 60 bills in a massive legislative assault "designed to hamstring the State Dep't of Water Resources and cripple influential local agencies, including even the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California" (State Sen. Richards of Los Angeles). Trouble: Not enough money in the $1.75 billion water bond issue to do the job it is supposed to do.

Walter Gleason (Special counsel to Calif. Senate Committee on Water Resources): "The November water bond election constitutes a distinct specie of fraud upon the voters."

Harlan Trott (Christian Science Monitor): "While Gov. Brown is busy patting himself on the back for his self-confessed 'greatest' and 'boldest' political coup, some senators in his own party are calling it a 'gross deception' and a 'cruel hoax' to the people."
B. Abbott Goldberg, Ass't Att'y General of California, is reported to be Brown's appointee as 
deputy director of the California department of water resources. Goldberg had declined appointment as San Francisco municipal court judge after Cal's Bar Ass'n recommended against him. But Brown says Goldberg "very definitely" will get a judgeship some day.

Mayor George Christopher of San Francisco is being hard headed about city water officials' claim that there is "no choice" but to complete the Hetch-Hetchy Project by submitting a $115 million bond issue to the people next November.

Christopher: "In view of the fact that the State is spending $2 billion on water, is it illegal to ask whether San Francisco should retrench and perhaps save money, instead of expanding a system that is indefinitely expandable?"

Sen Anderson of New Mexico has introduced a Wilderness Bill. Plans to hold hearings within the next few weeks. It's called "a compromise, much watered-down bill". Anderson's bill would permit multiple use of land in wilderness areas under carefully controlled conditions. Secretary Udall was asked for his views on multiple use of the public domain, with special reference to a new program for wilderness areas. Udall replied that the multiple use concept is wise and should be applied wherever possible. He added that he also hoped to get some type of wilderness program.

Narrows Reservoir Project on the South Platte River is being revived and expanded. CWCB will request $100,000 from the State Legislature to expedite USBR feasibility studies during the next two years. Denver Water Board may provide additional financial help on investigations. Narrows study will include an alternate upstream dam site near Hardin in Weld County. Also a dam at Two Forks, at junction of North Fork and South Fork above Denver.

You will hear more of the Narrows project. It has tremendous possibilities. Colorado River Water Conservation District is considering building Azure Dam and Powerplant on the Colorado River about ten miles below Kremmling. Financing: REA loan. Water for Crown-Zellerbach paper mill (by exchanges) is a proposed Azure feature.

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR 1961 COLORADO WATER CONGRESS MEMBERSHIP DUES.