"The protection and development of the water rights of Colorado citizens are essential to Colorado's economic growth and development. It has become increasingly apparent that the water laws under which the state now operates have been a deterrent to the protection and development of water rights.

"We believe the revisions of the water code on the basis tentatively programmed would represent a long step forward in the development of the water resources of the state". (Statement by Denver Chamber of Commerce, 1-10-61).

Fryingpan-Arkansas project authorization may be affected by political fallout from the current struggle on Capitol Hill for legislative power.

Fry-Ark was indirectly involved in the first battle of an anticipated long, bloody campaign to develop dependable congressional support for the administration's legislative program. Round one battle: Vote to liberalize the House Rules Committee.

This committee has almost life and death power over bills before they can be voted on. It determines what legislation is taken up by the House, when it is taken up and under what conditions. Conservative coalition in the committee was accused of blocking liberal legislation by 6 to 6 voting deadlocks. Recent House vote to increase committee membership from 12 to 15 gave liberals an 8 to 7 voting edge.

Colorado's vote on the House rules change: Aspinall for, Rogers for, Dominick against, Chenoweth not voting.

Chenoweth has long been congressional whipping boy for Fry-Ark authorization failures, even though he has worked hard for this project. Reason: Extremely conservative voting record that includes lack of support for other federal water and power developments. Chenoweth's record has irritated some Western congressmen, including the former representative from Arizona... Interior Secretary Udall.

Udall openly put the political screws on Chenoweth and other western congressmen during the rules fight.
First Chenoweth voted against the rules change, later was recorded as not voting. This switch may have gotten him off the administration's round one hook:

Udall: "I think all of us in the House understand the rules of the game. I discussed the rules of the game and other things of interest (with Chenoweth) ....

"I don't think this administration has done anything differently along this line than has been done before, other than in follow-through, field generalization and organization—and maybe more vigor."

Fry-Ark will have to be carefully handled by Colorado's congressional delegation. It's a two-time loser. Fry-Ark history: First introduced in 1952. Passed House Interior Committee twice. Once received a favorable rule from House Rules Committee after passing House Interior Committee. But the House declined to accept the rule for debate and sent it back. Passed Senate three times. Basic trouble: Fry-Ark has never been allowed on the floor of the House.

No Fry-Ark trouble is anticipated in the Senate. Colorado's Sen. Gordon Allott and Sen. John Carroll are both on the Senate Interior Committee.

Fry-Ark's Capitol Hill obstacle course includes strong competition for priority on the administration's project pushing list. New Mexico is determined to put a top priority tag on authorization of her Navajo-San Juan Chama project. Big Burns Creek project in Idaho and Wyoming was reported to be ahead of Fry-Ark (along with N-SJC) on Udall's current priority list. Garrison project in North Dakota and Mid-State project in Nebraska are ready for authorization.

USBR Commissioner Dominy appeared to soften Udall's statements on relative Fry-Ark priority in a recent statement to NRA directors. Dominy said the administration will support Fry-Ark for early authorization in the 87th Congress.

Practical effect of round one political fallout on Fry-Ark: No one really knows yet. But there's reason to expect that round two will feature some more backstage political infighting. It's also likely that heavy cabinet artillery will be used again if necessary to soften conflicting viewpoints of project pushing congressmen.
It's a long, rough road from the engineers' feasibility studies and the lawyers' water rights battles to actual authorization of a federal reclamation project. After authorization the road gets even tougher. Then comes the fight for federal appropriations to start construction.

Joint Budget Committee of the Colorado Legislature is considering appropriations requests for Colorado water agencies. Wanted for fiscal year 1962: $800,000 for the State Engineer (up 5%)... $504,000 for Colorado Water Conservation Board (up 15%)... $105,000 for Natural Resources Dep't (up 215%).

JBC will consider these requests, will integrate them into the long appropriation bill. House of Representatives will consider the long bill next month. Members of Joint Budget Committee. Rep. James M. French (Del Norte), chairman... Reps Roy Romer (Denver), Oakley Wade (Las Animas) and Sens. George L. Brown (Denver), Charles T. Porter (Lewis), Harry Locke (Hartsel). JBC is supported by full-time technical staff of four headed by John F. Quigley.

Natural Resources Dep't request for funds includes $37,500 for recodification and clarification of Colorado water laws. JBC heard testimony in support of these funds from Mark Shivers (Colorado Water Congress chairman), John Barnard, Jr. (past CWC director) and J. R. Barkley (Chairman of Colorado Water Investigation Commission).

Natural Resources Dep't budget proposal includes $35,000 for a ground water study. Money split-up: $16,000 to CSU, $19,000 to USGS. Federal gov't would add $19,000 in matching funds, making $54,000 total for fiscal year 1962. Study duration: Probably three or four years.

Basic proposal: CSU and USGS engineers would make a fact-finding study, independent of the Colorado water code task force studies. Broad objective: Determine benefits obtainable by planned, coordinated management of ground water and surface water supplies in the Arkansas and South Platte basins. Specifics: Study
detailed basin hydrology and water use, with emphasis on ground water–surface water inter-relationships.... Study operation of ground water reservoirs in conjunction with surface water supplies. Anticipated benefits: More beneficial use of water, more stable water supplies, data for resolution of legal conflicts.

Initial study area: Arkansas valley, between Canyon City and Nepesta (below Pueblo). Later... larger study areas, larger appropriations, tougher technical problems.

Major new item in proposed CWCB budget is $50,000 to expedite USBR studies of the South Platte River basin, particularly feasibility studies of revised and enlarged Narrows project.

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Colorado water projects aren't all big, aren't all involved in legal battles, interstate intrigue and congressional politics.

City of Boulder plans to expand its water system. Plan is to use space in Public Service Co's Bunker Reservoir at Nederland for water exchanges. If that doesn't work out, a new $14 million mountain reservoir is indicated. Boulder's water now comes from North Boulder Creek. Proposed expansion would develop Middle Boulder Creek supplies. Financing: Bond issue.

Pueblos expect to vote this year on a proposed $6 million bond issue for expansion of water facilities. Program includes main extensions, additional storage and pumping facilities, improvements to treatment plant. Doesn't include purchase of new raw water supplies.

Arvada is seeking proposals for an engineering study on expansion of its water system. Major facility: Proposed filter plant near Denver Water Board's Ralston Reservoir. Arvada obtains most of its raw water from Denver.

Westminster has received a $23,000 interest free planning loan from Community Facilities Administration to finance water facility studies. It's considering
feasibility of enlarging Standley Reservoir, owned by Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Co.

Durango received a $3500 loan from CFA for planning water facilities costing $575,000. Lafayette received $2300 from CFA to plan improvements to its water system costing $388,000. These federal planning loans are repayable with interest when construction starts. If no construction... no repayment.

Leadville recently dedicated its new Canterbury tunnel water supply project. It's a unique water defreezing scheme. Conduit under seven feet of cover will carry water to Leadville from a spring deep inside the old Canterbury Mine, abandoned since 1923. Thermostatically controlled heating cables will prevent freezing in fire hydrant laterals. Result: Elimination of most of the freezing problems that have plagued Leadville's water system. Project planning, design, construction supervision by Wheeler and Wright, Denver consulting engineers.

Metropolitan Denver Sanitation Committee received a $270,000 federal loan last month to finance planning for metropolitan sewage disposal facilities. Hurry-up studies will be made by a combine of three Denver engineering firms. Study objectives: Determine what it will cost each participant to join metro district. Timetable: Each district must approve joining metro district by April 23, 1961, or the plan will be cancelled. Participants: Westminster, Alameda, East Lakewood, Altura, Arvada, Wheat Ridge, North Washington, Denver. Note this: Metro sewage plan may involve water rights problems.

Aurora is experimenting with an odorless, sludge free sewage disposal process. Objective: Decentralized sewage treatment system that is less expensive, more flexible than conventional systems.

Aurora and Colorado Springs received a $212,000 loan from CFA last March for planning proposed $40 million privately financed Homestake Project. Supply source: Eagle River basin. Several projects on both slopes are seeking conditional decrees
for Eagle River water rights which District Judge Luby denied on grounds that water needs were speculative. Colorado Supreme Court is expected to rule soon on appeals from Luby's decision.

Residents of southwest Weld County are considering a proposed $5.5 million domestic water project. Supply: Colorado-Big Thompson Project. Facilities: Filter plant at Carter Lake, clear water storage, 200 miles of pipeline. Service area: 3,500 rural and small town families in the area near Berthoud-Mead-Johnstown-Niwot-Fort Collins, possible Windsor-Evans. Financing: Federal loan if possible, or bond issue. Three existing water associations may form a mutual water company for project financing and administration purposes.

Farmers and ranchers in rural areas of the Grand Valley have decided the time has come to get domestic water piped to their homesites. Ute Water District proposes to divert water from Plateau Creek below Collbran project's Molina powerplant, construct treatment facilities, deliver potable water through 400 miles of pipeline. Service area: Potential 64,000 farmers and ranchers from Cameo to near the Utah line. Cost: $10 million. Financing: Federal loan or bond issue. Ute is doing its planning with $50,000 loaned by CFA.

Ute's proposal for a valley-wide domestic water system has run into opposition from Grand Junction. GJ has its own ideas for serving outside-city areas. The controversy may be handed to a disinterested outside consultant for recommendations on what plan is best... Ute's, Grand Junction's or an integration of both plans.

Grand Junction is expanding its water treatment plant, plans a $150,000 filter unit to serve outside city area. Microstrainer method is being considered. But present problems are also plaguing city officials. They're worried about this year's poor snowpack on Grand Mesa.

Grand Mesa Water Users Association has proposed a cooperative cloud seeding project to increase Grand Mesa snowpack. Delta and Grand Junction will join the
project as contributers. Both cities get all their water supply from Grand Mesa.


Deepest waste disposal well ever sunk.... that's the 11,400 ft shaft under construction east of Denver at Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Objective: Treat chemical wastes, inject them into a deep porous sandstone formation. It's the Fountain formation which outcrops at Red Rocks Theater west of Denver. Top of Fountain lies 11,000 ft below the Arsenal, 1000 ft deep atop pre-Cambrian granite. Cost: $265,000 for well, $375,000 for treatment plant. It's an Army Corps of Engineers project.

Colorado River Water Conservation District and Middle Park Water Conservancy District are core drilling at Azure Damsite, between Little and Big Gore Canyons ten miles downstream from Kremmling. Proposed reservoir would probably be about 20,000 acre foot first stage capacity, ultimate about 90,000 AF. Water utilization: Hydroelectric power, probably sold to Tri-State Generation and Transmission Ass'n (REA wholesaler). Also industrial water for proposed Crown Zellerbach paper pulp mill, through exchanges. Financing: Probably REA loan.

Iron Mountain Dam construction is being considered by CRWCD. Site: Homestake Creek, Eagle River basin. Potential power purchaser: Colorado-Ute Electric Assoc. Financing: Probably REA loan.

Basalt project is slated for early USBR feasibility studies. It's in the Fryingpan and Roaring Fork valleys of Garfield, Pitkin, Eagle counties. Objective: Find uses for water to be stored in Reudi Reservoir, replacement feature for proposed Fryingpan-Arkansas transmountain diversion project.

Sweetwater project is a privately financed proposal being planned by Rocky Mountain Power Co. of Denver. Plan: Divert from South Fork of White River into
Sweetwater Creek, Colorado River tributary above Dotsero. **Major facilities:** Large reservoir and powerplant located about 4 miles above Dotsero. **Utilization:** Hydroelectric power and municipal-industrial water for oil shale development area and Eastern Slope areas by exchange. **Estimated cost:** $21 million for first stage development.

USBR's proposed Yellow-Jacket project in Rio Blanca and Moffat counties might conflict with Sweetwater project. USBR's engineers at Grand Junction are completing hydrologic studies of potential water rights conflict.

Colorado communities who want to construct water facilities may benefit from recent changes in federal Community Facilities Administration loan regulations. **Changes:** From 10,000 population limitation to unlimited population if there is substantial unemployment... From limitation to sewerage and drainage project to "any type of public works"... From 4 3/8% interest to 4 1/8% interest. CFA will loan money at this rate if private investors fail to pick up 4 1/8% general obligation bonds. Slightly higher rate, same idea, for revenue bonds.

* PEOPLE: Frank C. Merriell, able water engineer, salty veteran of inter-slope water wars, is dead at 75. Merriell was secretary-engineer for Colorado River Water Conservation District from 1937 to 1956... Elmer F. Bennett, retiring undersecretary of interior and native of Longmont, has joined the Washington law firm of Northcutt Ely as special partner. Ely represents California on Colorado River litigation..... John C. Davis, president of Denver Chamber of Commerce, has written to state officials and to chambers of commerce throughout Colorado in support of the proposed revision of the Colorado water code. Howard N. Yates, executive vice president of Colorado State Chamber of Commerce, observed that "The Denver Chamber makes what certainly appears to be some very worthwhile suggestions (with regard to the water code revision)".

John Barnard, Sr. of Granby, Frank Delaney of Glenwood Springs and Dan Hughes
of Montrose were all nominated by Colorado River Water Conservation District for a spot on the proposed water code revision steering committee. CRWCD couldn't decide which of its water warriors to recommend. Ken Wright, partner in the water engineering firm of Wheeler and Wright, is the new president of Colorado Mountain Club. It's a 1300 member organization in its 50th year, referred to as "one of the Colorado voices being heard on matters regarding the wise development of our mountainous areas".

Peter Dominick, Colorado congressman from the 2nd district, is the only freshman representative to be appointed to the House Interior Committee. Dominick makes three (with Aspinall, Chenoweth) of Colorado's four representatives on the most vital committee in Congress for western water legislation. John Carroll of Colorado has used his seniority to claim chairmanship of the minerals, materials, and fuels subcommittee of the Senate Interior Committee. Carroll is also on Interior's irrigation and reclamation subcommittee.

Frank P. Briggs is reported to be in line for assistant secretary of interior for fish and wildlife. He's a newspaper executive, ex-senator from Missouri. Karl S. Landstrom, new Bureau of Land Management director, was on Wayne Aspinall's House Interior Committee staff. BLM's new associate director Harold T. Hochmuth is a native of Colorado, CSU graduate. Max N. Edwards of Hobbs, New Mexico will be assistant to the secretary and legislative counsel for Dep't of Interior. He's a lawyer, former general counsel for New Mexico Senate. New REA administrator is Norman Clapp, Wisconsin newspaper publisher and brother of Gordon Clapp, one-time TVA chairman. Clapp succeeds Colorado's David A. Hamil of Atwood. Raymond G. Vendsel of Carpio, North Dakota, will be principal aid to Kenneth Holum, new assistant secretary of interior for water and power. Vendsel's background: Farmer and rancher, holds several business directorships, ex-member of ND Senate.

It looks like increased emphasis on Missouri Basin water and power problems.

Questioning by Senate Interior Committee provided tip-off on Holum's thinking.
Holum was evasive on whether he favored a [Missouri Valley Authority] or similar agency, finally said that if a yes or no answer was wanted, the answer would be "no". On the question of constructing [federal steam plants] to firm up federal hydro power systems, Holum was evasive. Said it's a matter of economics, a question of whether firming up federal power with federal steam plants will get the best results for the government and its customers.

Sen. Goldwater of Arizona: "It (the question of federal steam plants) is a very important question. I'm sorry you (Holum) can't take a stand on this".

*Wilderness Bill (S 174) hearings are set for February 27-28 before the Senate Interior Committee. S 174 was introduced by Sen. Anderson, committee chairman, has 13 co-sponsors. The 1961 version is supposed to be a compromise measure designed to overcome objections which blocked passage of wilderness legislation through two congresses. Principal feature of the new bill is that it would permit multiple use of land in wilderness areas under carefully controlled conditions. Water Congress legal advisors are fine-toothing S 174 to see if it is satisfactory to Western water interests.

Indications of the Western Slope drouth: Grand Valley Irrigation Co. notified its water users that water would be turned in all of its canals during the week of February 12th, weather permitting.... By February 9th, Grand Junction had run its string of moisture-less days to 66.

Your Water Congress newsletter is sent each month to some 850 people who are interested in Colorado water problems, including Colorado's congressional delegation, Colorado's state legislators, Colorado newspapers and radio stations, water professionals and Colorado irrigators who wear the boots and use the shovel.

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