"We who join together in this Water Congress come from every watershed in Colorado, and represent every classification of water user in the State. We recognize the necessity for unity of purpose and objective in supporting the formation and execution of a stable water policy for a unified State of Colorado. We join together in dedicating ourselves to the task of securing full development of all of our available water resources, grounding our actions upon the fundamental proposition that equity must be done to and among all areas in the State." (Preamble to the Constitution of the Colorado Water Congress)
Your Water Congress hangs its biggest hat on this peg: No good purpose is served by public controversy over matters that have not been given enough preliminary investigation to assure constructive approaches in public expressions of view. In other words, Water Congress members work together on things they can agree upon. They avoid like the plague the trying of internal water controversies in the court of public opinion.

Other motivating forces behind your Water Congress: Growing statewide awareness of the need to develop Colorado's water supplies and apply the available water to beneficial uses. Also the need to conserve Colorado's developed water supply through water research and water conservation. . . . And note this: The need to enact a modern water code for the administration of surface water and ground water.

Constitution of the Colorado Water Congress summed it up this way:

"We dedicate ourselves to the complete abandonment of our State's past leisurely attention to and consideration of its water problems, and in lieu thereof, the adoption of the strongest possible program, to the end that the fullest development of our water resources shall become the first order of business of the entire state and of all its people."

Duplication of Colorado Water Conservation Board responsibilities? Not at all. Colorado Water Congress is dedicated to helping the Colorado Water Conservation Board. How? . . . Advisory services: Colorado's top water lawyers and engineers are members of the Colorado Water Investigation Commission, formed by CWCB at the suggestion of CWC. This group meets on CWCB request to develop technical recommendations on urgent water problems.

Information services: Colorado water leaders have made many public talks before water user groups throughout the state. Water Congress Newsletter provides a central point for expression of water user views and for relaying information to water users throughout Colorado. Newsletter information is keeping hundreds on the Colorado water team. An uninformed water user is an uninterested water user.

Influence: Colorado's water warriors, banded together in common purpose, are a potent force both as individuals and as representatives of organizations. Their combined influence can effectively promote statewide water user interests before
the Colorado Legislature, congressional water committees, national water organizations and the federal government. **Tough Water Congress job:** Keeping veteran water warriors hitched on water matters of mutual acceptance and statewide concern.

**Other states** have similar problems. California, Utah and Texas are leaders in developing active, influential water user organizations.

**Texas Water:** "The situation calls for bold and dynamic leadership from the community to the national level, if the impending (water) crisis is to be averted. Petty jealousies, biases, prejudices and sectionalism cannot be tolerated. Neither can procrastination and indecision by those in positions of leadership."

When did Colorado Water Congress get going? It started strong in 1958. Governor McNichols and Attorney General Dunbar called a bi-partisan state water meeting in Denver on June 4, 1958. Over 500 attended from every corner of the state. Result: Formation of the Colorado Water Congress, with John Barnard, Jr. as chairman. **It took a while** to develop a constitution and bylaws that everyone could agree upon. But the job was completed at a meeting in Durango on July 17, 1958.

What has Colorado Water Congress accomplished? Foremost accomplishment may be intangible, not measurable. It has helped maintain a relatively **stable water ship** in Colorado during the past three years. Not alone, by any means. Biggest credit must go to Colorado Water Conservation Board leadership.

First Water Congress action: Recommendation to Colorado Water Conservation Board on creation of the **Colorado Water Investigation Commission.** CWCB approved, appointed CWIC members with J. R. Barkley of Loveland as chairman, then handed CWIC a difficult, urgent problem . . . **Glen Canyon Reservoir filling criteria.** CWIC engineering and legal subcommittees developed recommendations on Glen filling based on Colorado River Compact provisions. Then Colorado Water Congress helped develop water user support for a **new toughness** in CWCB interstate water relations.

"The State of Colorado holds that the Colorado River Compact requires no interpretation for the utilization of the waters of the Colorado River as provided in the compact . . . We desire to make it clear that we will not depart—even momentarily—from the terms of the Colorado River Compact upon which our resolution is based." (From Colorado's statement to the Upper Colorado River Commission, Salt Lake City, Utah, December 11, 1958.)
Important benchmark symbolizing new interslope unity on water problems: Appointment of Ben Stapleton, Jr. of Denver as vice chairman and presiding officer of the Colorado Water Conservation Board in November 1958. Stapleton was the first CWCB member representing either slope to succeed to the vice chairmanship since CWCB's formation in 1937.

Wilderness Bill defeat in 1959 was strongly aided by the Colorado Water Congress. A Water Congress resolution was the first in a series of steps that led through CWCB, the Colorado legislature and out-of-state public hearings to the wilderness summit on Capitol Hill.

John Barnard, Jr. presented a report on the Wilderness Bill to Colorado's Congressional delegation. He proposed several amendments to protect water user interests and made at least six trips to Washington in support of these amendments. Senator Gordon Allott of Colorado became interested in the amendments and proposed them to the Senate Interior Committee. When the Wilderness Bill reached executive session, Allott was able to have John Barnard, Jr. attend. Barnard assisted Senator Allott as he explained the proposed amendments. This was a time when western water users' blue chips were on the congressional table. Barnard was the only water representative at the closed-door executive session on the Wilderness Bill.

The Wilderness Bill didn't get out of committee! John Barnard, Jr.'s work for the Water Congress on wilderness legislation received national attention, was regarded as a major factor contributing to the defeat of dangerous wilderness legislation.

Resolution of the Curecanti Reservoir fish problem was aided by Colorado Water Congress efforts. Colorado Game and Fish Dept. openly opposed Curecanti because of alleged fish losses. Secretary of Interior noted the fish controversy and asked for Colorado's official views. CWCB had to sit tight while a unified state policy was developed under difficult inter-agency conditions.
Colorado Water Congress, free of state government restraints, moved quickly on Curecanti. Water Congress recommendations on the status of fish and wildlife resources in connection with water development were adopted by CWCB. These recommendations were incorporated in a memorial adopted by the Colorado Legislature and transmitted to Congress. Eventually, the Curecanti fish controversy was resolved and federal appropriations were obtained for a Curecanti start in 1960.

"As a matter of survival and economic development, Colorado officially recognizes the necessity of water development projects. In accordance with the law and the primary needs of the people, such projects are hereby declared to be of first and foremost importance. While it is recognized that sport fisheries, wildlife and other recreational uses should be developed, such development must be on a basis which is consistent with and subordinate to the aforesaid primary purposes of water development."

(From Colorado Water Congress recommendations)

Your Water Congress has had an active role in resisting federal encroachment on state water rights. In 1959, Chairman John Barnard, Jr. testified before the Reclamation Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee on proposed states water rights legislation. Another big Water Congress job in 1959: Host to 900 western water users at the annual convention of the National Reclamation Association in Denver.

Colorado Water Congress adopted an important resolution at its annual convention in October 1959. It called for revision, modernization and strengthening of the Colorado water administration code at the earliest possible time. Continuing Water Congress efforts led to appropriations by Colorado Legislature in 1961 for the start of water code work.

"The Colorado Water Congress strongly recommends and requests that the Colorado Director of Natural Resources inaugurate a complete and thorough study of the present water administrative code, together with the codes of other states, and prepare a draft of a completely revised and modernized administrative code, which can be used as the basis for recommendations to the Governor and the Colorado General Assembly." (Resolution 10-26-59)

Senate Select Committee on Water Resources almost bypassed Colorado on its West-wide fact finding tour. Colorado Water Congress, working through Senators John Carroll and Gordon Allott, were able to get a hearing scheduled in Denver.
Defeat of the game and fish amendment on the November 1960 ballot was aided by Water Congress efforts. The proposed constitutional amendment would have set up an independent commission free from legislative control. Water interests were apprehensive about what might happen if Colorado G & F Dept.'s millions of dollars were unleashed in support of new crusades.

Water Congress organization: **Executive Committee** carries out programs and policies. **Members:** John Barnard, Sr. (Colorado River), Clarence Burr (N. Platte and Laramie), Jack Hughes (Gunnison), William Eakes (San Juan, Dolores, San Miguel), Ray Moses (Rio Grande), Charles Boustead (Arkansas), J. R. Barkley (South Platte) and Glenn Saunders (Denver).

**Water Congress officers:** Mark Shivers, Englewood attorney, is chairman. Vice chairman: Amos Horn, Granby rancher. **Secretary-Treasurer:** John Patterson, Denver engineer. **Water Congress staff:** Gordon H. Scheer, executive director, Dan Holmes, assistant executive director, Charles C. Fisk, Newsletter editor.

**Gordon Scheer wears two hats.** He is also executive director of the Colorado Society of CPA's. Scheer's Water Congress job: Coordination, membership promotion, developing financial support. **Dan Holmes of Colorado Springs is a former rancher.** Dan's job: Develop grass roots support for the Water Congress.

**Who controls Water Congress policies?** No area, no special interest. Discussion and action by your Water Congress are limited to matters on which there is substantial agreement among all areas of the state. **How?** By giving the power to decide what matters can be discussed and acted upon to a **Rules Committee** consisting of one representative from each of 19 districts covering all of Colorado. **Can any area or any alignment of interests control your Rules Committee?** No . . . Because only three negative votes are required to stop any proposal.

**WHERE is Colorado Water Congress today?** CWC's measurements: Eighty-six sustaining members, 526 individual members, $15,000 annual income, $6,200 in the bank, 1,000 Newsletters mailed monthly. Complimentary Newsletters are sent to Colorado's
congressional delegation, to Colorado's state legislators, to nearly all of Colorado's newspapers and radio stations, to a number of out-of-state western water interests. Many Colorado water people are contributing untold hours of valuable time to Water Congress activities. Many Colorado organizations contribute staff time, trip expenses to Water Congress efforts. Public Service Company of Colorado contributes valuable Washington news services to the Newsletter. Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District contributes Newsletter envelope addressing services. Denver Water Board contributes Newsletter typing and printing services. These three organizations provide their services in addition to substantial sustaining membership contributions.

QUOTES FROM COLORADO WATER CONGRESS NEWSLETTERS . . . .

"Picture this: Partisans of Colorado's past internal water wars, sitting side by side in an atmosphere of mutual respect and confidence, constructively working on state-wide water problems. There have been water men in Colorado who would shed honest tears of joy at such a sight.

"Does this mean an end to Colorado's internal water wars? Certainly not. But this spirit of cooperation is already forestalling some unnecessary skirmishes which could cost the participants dearly in time and dollars." (8-15-58)

"At last, Colorado is alert. Through your efforts in backing the Water Congress, Colorado's water law and water engineering talent is being brought together in a common attack on common problems for all Colorado water users." (9-19-58)

"More erroneous information, more misunderstandings and more confused, prejudicial thinking are expended on water problems than on any other field of human activity except religion and politics." (1-9-59)

"There has to be an informed public opinion to translate technical knowledge into action if Colorado's dwindling water supply is to be protected and utilized . . .

"Busy friends, take time to look at our interstate water problems. See how we have backed into these problems . . . stumbling at times over complex interstate water relationships which were too difficult for us to handle with merely good intentions." (3-17-59)

"Terror gripped discerning water men when it was realized that hundreds of water rights acquired under state appropriation law and utilizing water coming from government reservations might be subjected to a future government use because of an over-riding federal right never before known to exist.

"In one stroke of its Pelton pen, the Supreme Court deprived western states of effective control over waters on most of the public domain. Some say the Supreme Court, in its Pelton decision, reverted to the federalism evident in the first years of the Court's history." (4-24-59)
"Most water problems now-a-days are like an iceberg... nine-tenths submerged and one-tenth exposed. The exposed part is current activity that you read about in today's news sources. The submerged part is background information on what has happened before today, the various plays on the water development chessboard." (4-24-59)

* "Your Water Congress is not crying wolf, when there is no wolf. It is later than you think on the Colorado River." (6-25-59)

* "The State Engineer of Colorado... middleman in complex water controversies... police officer on Colorado streams.

"Is he the strong-armed administrator of the appropriation doctrine in Colorado, as intended by the 1879 Colorado General Assembly?

"Or is he a traffic cop moving along Colorado's crowded 1959 waterways in an administrative Model-T, trying to enforce the law with a Justice of the Peace warrant in his hip pocket?" (8-27-59)

* "Please remember this: Your Water Congress is trying to do something about Colorado water problems. This is good for the water users of Colorado. But it's not putting money in the Water Congress bank account. Putting first things first has meant postponement of a Water Congress financial drive." (9-25-59)

* "Colorado has nothing even remotely resembling a bold, imaginative program to plan, protect and develop her water supplies on an integrated, state-wide basis. Colorado has no state water plan and she seems to be in no hurry to develop one. Colorado has no self-financing ideas on water development. She has exhibited little enthusiasm for fielding a big league technical water team. Colorado hasn't informed the public on interstate water problems and the need for state water development money.

"A few Coloradans have understood these deficiencies... men whose life work is water. And they have done something about it by creating the Colorado Water Congress and putting it to work. But there is a limit to what the few can do. Local leaders... water users who can see beyond their headgate... will have to get into the Water Congress harness and help pull the load over the rough road that lies ahead." (10-16-59)

* "What lies ahead for Colorado water interests in the decade of the sixties? It's anybody's guess. But the future reveals here secrets first to those who understand the present." (1-20-60)

* "Water rich, energy rich Colorado... what a combination. What a potential! Colorado's vast energy reserves are sidelined by cost competition. But they are staying put. In contrast, Colorado's once vast water reserves are slipping away to permanent downstream commitments." (3-23-60)

* "There is more to water in Colorado than fight, fight, fight! There is, for example, the quiet country of water research. It isn't glamorous... no headlines, no personality clashes, no maneuvering for political advantage. It's a high plateau of thoughtful concentration on water fundamentals." (5-20-60)

Colorado Water Congress future? It's up to the water people of Colorado. A big membership drive is coming this fall. Individuals and organizations will be asked to help the Water Congress program. Do your part. Remember: The limit of Colorado's future is its water.