Fryingpan-Arkansas project authorization will have to wait until next year. So will authorization of New Mexico's Navajo-San Juan-Chama project and Idaho's Burns Creek Project. In other words, no reclamation project authorizations this year.

Basic trouble: The bitter fight between public and private power interests. It's an all-out battle that is likely to be decided soon on the floor of the House, possibly on the basis of emotion and philosophy rather than reason. Controversy over power has created a congressional climate that is unsuited to reclamation project authorizations, especially when a project includes power development.

Hydro-electric power will be a major partner in the multipurpose Fry-Ark. Fifty-eight percent of Fry-Ark's total average annual net project revenues are expected to come from net power revenues. Balance: Irrigation revenues (22%), municipal and industrial water revenues (20%).

All efforts to settle the fight over appropriations for an all-federal transmission system for the Upper Colorado River Storage Project have failed. Colorado's Rep. Wayne Aspinall (chairman of the House Interior Committee) and New Mexico's Sen. Clinton Anderson (chairman of the Senate Interior Committee) have sponsored a series of meetings for upper basin congressional delegations and representatives
of the Bureau of Reclamation and the private utilities. But a unified position could not be developed. Benefit claims are still miles apart and are mostly obscured from public view by a cloud of statistical smoke.

Colorado Water Conservation Board voted to support the all-federal transmission system. Independent studies by CWCB staff and outside consultants indicated that the all-federal transmission system would result in more net power revenues for the upper basin fund than if investor owned utilities built the controversial backbone lines and charged for wheeling the energy to preference customers. The same conclusion was reached by two secretaries of interior (Seaton and Udall).

Colorado's stake in the power fight is relatively clear-cut: Maximum power revenues to finance participating irrigation projects on the Western Slope. (Colorado's share of upper basin power revenues is 46%. Remaining 54% is split between Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico). Colorado is also concerned about the effect of the power fight in delaying other Colorado reclamation project authorizations which have to wait for Fry-Ark to clear Congress. Standing in line: Bostwick Park, Silt, Savory-Pot Hook, Fruitland Mesa, Animas La-Plata, Narrows.

Utilities stake (both public and private) in the power transmission line fight is not clear-cut. Basic issues are highly complex. Motivations go beyond the highly publicized wheeling controversy into the gray zone of intangible power system interconnection benefits.

Colorado is involved (by congressional vote) in another big battle over power appropriations. In a recent critical roll call vote by which the House instructed its conferees to oppose the Hanford, Washington, federal nuclear power project, Colorado's delegation lined up this way . . . For Hanford: Aspinall and Rogers . . . Against Hanford: Chenoweth and Dominick. Vote of Colorado's
congressional delegation in the anticipated House floor showdown on transmission line funds will have an important effect on Fry-Ark authorization success next year.

Like it or not, Colorado water user interests are deeply involved in the power fight. After the issue is resolved, Colorado Water Congress will have a job to do, providing a means for opposing interests within Colorado to re-unite and press on with renewed vigor towards the common goal of full development of all of Colorado's available water resources.

WATER PEOPLE: Harold Lathrop, Director of the Colorado Parks and Recreation Dept. died recently of a heart attack. Ralph D. Goodrich (83) of Grand Junction died recently of injuries suffered in a fall. Goodrich was chief engineer for the Upper Colorado River Commission from 1950 to 1956. Ray Wailes and wife of Dillon were killed last month in an auto accident. Wailes was superintendent of Public Service Co.'s Summit County hydroelectric power plant for many years. He had become an expert at handling severe canal icing problems. Donald Ramstetter, son of late Ernest Ramstetter of Golden, died recently of gunshot wounds. Ernest was among the early organizers of the Colorado Water Congress.

R. J. Walter, former director of the Bureau of Reclamation's Region 7 office in Denver, (1954-1959), has retired. David Miller of Greeley, F. M. Peterson of Delta and Clarence Burr of Walden have been reappointed to the nine-member Colorado Water Conservation Board. Felix L. Sparks, director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board has been alerted for possible active military duty. Col. Sparks commands the 169th Field Artillery Group Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the Colorado National Guard. Augustus P. Hann of Denver, an Izaak Walton Leaguer, has been appointed to the Colorado Game and Fish Commission.

A. P. Hann: "As commissioner, I want to work with both sportsmen and landowners in bringing about a multiple use of land. I want to lend whatever support I can to their (Kennedy's and Udall's) plans to utilize both the recreational values and the resources of the public lands and still preserve as much as possible of the wilderness characteristics."

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WATER WISDOM: "Good men can make poor laws workable; poor men will wreak havoc with good laws" (James M. Landis). "A wise man knows everything, a smart one everybody" (Texas Water). "To live happily in the country one must have the soul of a poet, the mind of a philosopher, the simple tastes of a hermit and a good station wagon" (Texas Water). "An oral contract is not enforceable unless it is in writing" (Oklahoma U law student on final examination paper).

WATER LITIGATION: Water District 53 adjudication proceedings, which include claims to use of water for the proposed Sweetwater Hydroelectric Project (Rocky Mountain Power Co.), the proposed Azure reservoir and power plant (Colorado River Water Conservation District) and the proposed pulp mill near Kremmling (Crown Zellerbach), have been continued to August 25 in Eagle District Court. Legal fireworks are anticipated in similar adjudication proceedings for Water District 43 in Rio Blanco County District Court at Meeker on Sept. 25. Individual farmers and ditch companies in the White River Basin are expected to oppose claims for the Sweetwater Project's proposed diversion out of the South Fork of the White River.

WATER LITIGATION: Kannah Creek diversion practices were upheld recently by District Judge E. L. Dutcher in a 21-page ruling. Immediate cause of controversy on Kannah Creek (near Grand Junction) was petition for change in point of diversion. Ranchers sought to legalize diversion practices which had been in effect for about 50 years. Judge Dutcher ruled for the change in point of diversion but imposed certain strict conditions.

Grand Valley underground water case ruling recently signed by District Judge George Kempf (see 4-17-61 Newsletter) confirmed preliminary proposed decree which requires State Engineer to enforce artesian well adjudications, stop waste, etc. Kempf's ruling requires artesian well owners to pump or to deepen or enlarge their wells before juniors can be shut down. Practical effect, according to Asst. Atty. Gen. John B. Barnard, Jr., who represented the State Engineer, is that probably no
juniors will ever be shut down. The case will probably be appealed on the issues of the validity of the adjudication decrees and the order to the State Engineer to enforce them. End result: Ground water law through litigation, rather than through legislation based upon objective analysis by Colorado Water experts.

Pueblo Water Board received $930 from County Commissioners for materials used in moving a water line to make way for a freeway. Controversy started in 1958 when Water Board asked for $1,400 payment which included labor costs. Littleton is faced with a $22,000 suit for damages alleged to have been caused to a home by sewage backup from clogged sewer line. Colorado Public Utilities Commission has continued (until Sept. 7) hearings on protest by Public Service Co. of Colorado over a power transmission line being built by Colorado-Ute Electric Association between Montrose and Collbran project power plants near Grand Junction.

Georgetown Dam failure in 1956 has resulted in 10 damage suits against the Colorado Game and Fish Dept. Current legal status: Five suits totaling over $80,000 paid or approved for payment, one suit dismissed, one judgment of $24,000 being appealed by the state, three suits awaiting trial. G&F Commission voted $50,000 to rebuild the dam over a year ago, but a chemical firm recently reported that soil at the Georgetown damsite contains materials poisonous to fish.

Irregularities are charged by residents of an area north of Westminster in a complaint to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Complaint: Northwest Water District, formed by a special 3-to-0 vote, would saddle 373 residents (who didn't get to vote) with big tax burden by plans to sell a $128,000 water plant for $1.5 million. Purchase from Northwest Water Corporation would be financed by a $2.5 million bond issue passed by another special 3-to-0 vote. Hearing on confirmation of the water district bond issue is set for Sept. 1 in Brighton District Court.

COLORADO WATER DISTRICTS: Ute Water Conservancy District taxing electors will vote August 29 on an $11,850,000 bond issue to finance a new water system for
rural and suburban areas of the Grand Valley. Electors will also vote on
authorizing the Ute board to raise the mill levy to the statutory maximum. **Ute**
**District proposes** to divert water from the tailrace of the Collbran project's
lower Molina power plant through a long pipeline to a vast distribution area ex-
tending from Palisade to points near the Utah border. **Preliminary studies** of the
Ute diversion plan were completed last year by Western Engineers of Grand Junction.
Further planning studies are now being made by C. H. Hoper & Co., Denver Utilities
Engineers.

**Grand Junction Sentinel:** "Residents of the valley should realize
one key fact: Without an adequate supply of domestic water,
development of this valley will proceed slowly, if at all . . .
Ute is the only immediate vehicle for distributing high quality
mountain water throughout the valley. If the citizens allow this
opportunity to go by, development of a cattle feeding industry,
establishment of more meat packing facilities, enticement of new
industry to the valley will be impossible." (Editorial 7-26-61)

**Tri-County Water Conservancy District** has set its sights on a $10 million
central domestic water system for the Uncompahgre Valley. **First step:** Arrange with
Bureau of Reclamation for inclusion of an additional 15,000 acre feet for domestic
and municipal use in the proposed Ridgway Dam of the Dallas Creek project (partici-
pating unit of Upper Colorado River Storage Project). **Tri-County’s plan** would
involve filtration, purification, transmission and distribution of the storage water.
Beneficiaries: Rural homes in the Uncompahgre Valley, supplementary supplies for
residents of Montrose, Delta, Olathe and possibly Ridgway. Uncompahgre Valley
development is being promoted by the **Uncompahgre Valley Council**, composed of
delegates from towns, counties and organizations of the Valley.

**Orchard Mesa Irrigation District residents** (Mesa County) have voted approval
(by a 40 to 1 ratio) of a $750,000 reclamation rehabilitation contract. Prime
objective is reduction of water losses through canal lining and other rehabilitation
work. . . **Grand Mesa and North Fork Water Conservancy Districts** may be beneficiaries
of a new water project (Grand Mesa) being proposed as a participating unit of the
Upper Colorado River Storage Project. Studies by Bureau of Reclamation and Colorado
Water Conservation Board are in the preliminary planning stage. CWCB has provided matching funds for investigations.

**POLLUTION CRACKDOWN** appears likely in Colorado. Nearing solution of metropolitan Denver's king-sized pollution problem opens the door for a major crackdown on other river pollution problems throughout Colorado. Availability of low interest federal funds and growing influence of U. S. Public Health Service (through legislation and litigation) are contributing to Colorado's gathering sewage storm clouds. Colorado Health Dept. is expected to determine which cities face hearings and possible court action within "the next few months."

Water pollution laws are being studied by Western Slope lawyers as pollution problems intensify on the Colorado River and its tributaries. **State law makes** pollution a crime punishable by a fine of up to $1,000 and six months in jail. **Statutes grant** State Game and Fish Dept. the power to seek injunction against persons polluting fish waters. **County health departments** are given authority to hold hearings and subpoena witnesses to stop pollution. **An individual** can file suit to stop pollution. But no individual or local agency in Colorado has ever started legal action to stop pollution. Now: **Inter-agency buck-passing.**

**Deputy District Attorney of Mesa County:** "I think pollution is a health department problem" (Owen S. Aspinall).

**County Board of Health:** "We're an educational body, not a law enforcement power. I think it's a little out of our jurisdiction" (John Klapwyk).

**State Health Dept. District Engineer:** "Counties ought to try to stop pollution themselves. What have they got to lose?" (Frank A. Brown).

**Colorado G & F Dept.:** "We need a new pollution law with some teeth in it." (Bob Hoover)

**COLORADO CITIES:** Englewood plans transmountain water diversions through facilities of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project. Contract has been approved by Englewood, Dept. of Interior and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. ... Greeley has signed an agreement with the Greeley-Loveland Irrigation Co. for use of a storage space in Boyd Lake, northeast of Loveland. Boyd storage plus new
facilities (filter plant, 15-mile pipeline, new distribution mains) will increase Greeley's water supply by 50 percent.

Loveland is taking steps towards a bond issue to finance water facility improvements necessary to satisfy water demands of a population of 20,000 . . .

Pueblo meter installations are booming. Incentives: Flat rate increase of 50 percent, exemption of metered customers from irrigation restrictions. Pueblans will vote in November on a proposal to abolish the three-member water board and place water matters under jurisdiction of the city council . . . Delta, Montrose, Paonia, Norwood, Hotchkiss, Glenwood Springs are among Colorado cities planning water system improvements.

Grand Junction has passed a new irrigation ditch control ordinance. After September 5, city council may close ditches declared to be a "nuisance" . . .

Colorado Springs will purchase an interim supply of South Platte River water from the Denver Water Board a year earlier than expected. Contract expires in 1970 . . . Dillon Dam, spectacular high dam being constructed by the Denver Water Board, is now 40 percent completed. Although construction is ahead of schedule, target date for completion is still the fall of 1963.

COLORADO FISH: New research center for the Colorado Game and Fish Dept. has been opened in Fort Collins. The $160,000 building adjoins the CSU campus . . . Endangering of fish in Willow Creek (near Granby) by USBR's Colorado-Big Thompson project diversions is the charge recently made to state officials by State Sen. Fay DeBerard of Kremmling.

WATER RESEARCH: Brackish water conversion project is underway at the Dalpra farm near Longmont. Bureau of Reclamation is conducting tests aimed at developing low cost methods of converting brackish water pumped from wells into fresh water . . . Cloud seeding research is continuing in the mountains near Climax. CSU has received another $60,000 from the National Science Foundation to continue this work.

National symposium on water research held this summer at Colorado State University boosted CSU's growing national and international stature in the field of
Floyd E. Dominy, Commissioner of Reclamation: "This year our nation will invest $13.5 billion for research and development. Of this, over 50 pct. will be directed toward national security. A very small amount of this huge fund is allocated for research in the water resources field. We must improve this ratio.

"There is no question but that we should unravel the secrets of our universe, investigate the subatomic world of nuclei and particles and work toward production of unlimited cheap energy from the atom. But in the meantime, we must have water to drink, to grow crops and to supply industry."

Arkansas Valley water resource research has entered an important new phase. Colorado State U and U. S. Geological Survey are cooperating in a study aimed at finding ways of ultimately using the surface and ground water resources of the Arkansas Valley in Colorado to provide the greatest possible water benefits for the area. First two years will be devoted to pilot study of areas between La Junta and Las Animas. Colorado legislature allotted $35,000 for fiscal 1962. USGS will provide $19,000 in matching federal funds.

Arkansas Valley research project will seek answers to these questions: (1) What effect do ground water withdrawals have on streamflow? (2) How much are yields of wells affected by the pumping of other nearby wells? (3) How much of the water diverted or pumped for irrigation returns to the ground water reservoir and to the stream? (4) What changes in quality of water occur throughout the hydrologic cycle? (5) How is quality affected by recycling of ground water, and how long can ground water be recycled before quality deterioration will prohibit further use? (6) How much water now being consumed nonbeneficially by evaporation and useless vegetation can be salvaged? (7) What economic-social benefits could be derived by improved water management practices? (8) What legal machinery is needed to facilitate optimum beneficial use of the water available?

"In the valley of the Arkansas, surface water and ground water have been studied and managed as if they were separate and independent sources; actually, the two are closely inter-related. A part of the surface water applied to the land for irrigation percolates downward becoming a part of the ground water reservoir. Before ground water was used extensively, the water returned to
the stream. As ground water withdrawals increased, more and more of the underflow to the stream was intercepted by pumping from wells, thus reducing the streamflow. A quantitative understanding of these functions and their inter-relation is needed to permit optimum use of the total water resources.

"The codes and laws now governing the use and allocation of water were designed chiefly for surface water supplies. They do not appear adequate to cope with the many legal, economic, and management problems that have arisen or that are likely to arise from the combined use of surface and ground water. The results of this study should provide the information needed to solve these problems." (CSU Press Statement)

COLORADO NEWSPAPERS: Florence, Colorado, Citizen won first place in national newspaper competition with over 2,000 weeklies. Pueblo Chieftan publishes daily flow data for over 40 gaging stations in the Arkansas Valley. Arkansas Valley Journal published an interesting article recently about the destructive Kiowa Creek flood of May 1935 and how Kiowa's waters will now be controlled by the recently completed (SCS) Kiowa Creek Watershed Protection Project. Article was written by Jerry Henry, a journalism student at Otero Junior College. Cortez Journal makes water sense in a recent editorial on multiple use of land.

Cortez Journal: "There has been much discussion and conversation about wilderness areas and multiple use. One way to assure the land for recreation is to draw a line around certain areas and say: 'No further encroachment here.' Another way is to adopt the principle of multiple use. This excellent principle runs counter to the old idea that land must be used essentially for one purpose or the other. Here in the West we must make use of our lands if we want to develop as other sections have. We hope that Interior Secretary Udall and others also come up with the same conclusion where they undertake further park development."

WATER MEETINGS: National Reclamation Association annual convention will be held at Billings, Montana, October 19, 20, 21. Pre-convention activities will feature a tour of the Custer Battlefield and the dedication of Yellowtail Dam. Send $10 deposit on advance reservations to Housing Committee, National Reclamation Association, P. O. Box 2513, Billings, Montana. Do it now!