"Water is great stuff, when you stop to think about it. You can drink it, stomp on it, churn it, stretch it, boil it, freeze it, or do anything else to it, and it comes out water." (Johnson National Driller's Journal)

THE MEXICAN SALINITY PROBLEM has taken a turn for the better.

Background: Mexico has been pressuring the U.S. through highest diplomatic channels, including President Kennedy, for correction of the salinity problem on the lower Colorado River. Panel of U.S. experts studied the problem, made recommendations. U.S. State Dep't clamped a tight secrecy lid on these recommendations. This aroused water giveaway fears in the West.

The experts' plan is believed to have proposed a ground water pumping and channel construction scheme that would bypass saline waste water from the Welton-Mohawk project (Arizona) around Mexico's Colorado River diversion works. This would be expensive. But the big fear in the West was that the 220,000 acre feet a year of bypassed saline water would not be included as part of Mexico's 1.5 million acre foot annual allocation under the Mexican water treaty.
Sen. Carl Hayden of Arizona led a vigorous behind-the-scenes battle to head off premature acceptance of the salinity control plan until engineering and legal problems were thoroughly explored. Hayden, chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, was backed by other Colorado River basin congressmen. Result: Senate and House appropriations committees have attached restrictive conditions to proposed USBR studies of the salinity problem. Conditions: No studies of a bypass channel at this time. No investigations which would result in Mexico's receiving additional water not charged against her treaty allocation. Salinity, drainage and irrigation problems for the entire lower Colorado River basin will be included in the studies.

The Colorado River salinity battle may be just beginning. Next stage could involve an inter-basin water quality scrap. It's been brewing for some time. Southern California interests are concerned about increases in Colorado River salinity, which they attribute to upper basin irrigation return flow and transmountain diversions. The Colorado River compact does not mention water quality. But neither does the Mexican water treaty.

RECODIFICATION OF COLORADO WATER LAWS has reached the first plateau of a long and difficult climb toward consideration by the Colorado legislature, probably in 1964. The recodification committee, consisting of five water lawyers, has completed its first draft. This draft will be submitted to select groups of water people for
review and comment. Then the draft will be revised and refined before distribution to all of the water people in Colorado. **Select review groups:** Colorado Bar Association (water section), representatives of the professional engineers' societies in Colorado and Colorado Water Congress. **Water Congress review team** will consist of 8 water users (non-professionals, one from each district), with a water attorney and a water engineer as advisors.

**COLORADO WATER ROUNDPUP:** Granby Reservoir has spilled for the first time since initial closure in 1949. Some rock and log diversion headworks and dirt road crossings below the dam have been washed out. Other Western Slope spillers: Denver's Williams Fork and USBR's Paonia (first time). In the Arkansas Valley, Big John (John Martin Reservoir) is dry . . . **Artificial ground water recharge program** at Olds Reservoir is the apparent cause of a 10 to 20 foot rise in ground water levels in the Prospect Valley below Denver. Ground water levels have risen during the past year in most of Colorado's pump irrigated areas. Exception: Bijou Creek area, where the decline continues.

**Proposed release of Lake Mead water** to clear the river channel below Hoover Dam has aroused Utah's Sen. Moss. He fears the release would set a precedent for other downstream deliveries at the expense of upper basin states. He wants the Bureau of Reclamation to use Army Engineers' dredging equipment, rather than water releases . . .

**Crown-Zellerbach Corp.** has signed a 40-year contract with the Bureau
of Reclamation for purchase of up to 6,000 acre feet a year of water stored in Green Mountain Reservoir. The water would be used at a proposed paper mill near Kremmling . . .

WATER PEOPLE:  A.B. Koonce, 82, of Eagle died of a heart attack on June 27. Koonce was active in the Colorado Water Congress and the Natural Resources Council of the Colorado Chamber of Commerce. He attended a NRC meeting in Denver the day before his death.

William F. Stevens, a rancher, has been named to succeed Koonce as Eagle County representative on the Colorado River Water Conservation District board . . . Raphael Moses, prominent Colorado water lawyer, is moving his office and home from Alamosa to Boulder on September 1st . . . Ben Franciscotti, Huerfano Valley rancher, supplements his ranch income by constructing livestock dams, erosion control dams and spreader ditches. He has built over 300 dams during the past 12 years under the agricultural conservation program.

Engineering Consultants, Inc., Denver based firm with an international practice in planning and designing multipurpose water projects, has been given President Kennedy's E-Award (E for export) "for significant contributions to the export expansion program of the United States". ECI is the first consulting firm in America to receive this coveted award. Recently, ECI's John Donley replaced Ben Essig of Denver on the Commerce Dept's Export Expansion Council . . . "Conservation and the Congress" address by Colorado's Rep. Wayne Aspinall, delivered at the recent White House Conference on Conservation, has
been reprinted in Reclamation News (National Reclamation Assn) and in the North Dakota Water Users Assn's News Bulletin. NRA calls it "one of the most thorough and best prepared statements on conservation that we have read".

F.M. Peterson, CWCB member from Delta, and George Cory, formerly of Montrose, were given special editorial mention by the Grand Junction Sentinel for their long and diligent efforts in behalf of the Currecanti project . . . Attending the July 6th meeting of the Colorado Water Conservation Board at Gunnison were Gov. McNichols, Rep. Aspinall, Sen. John A. Carroll and State Senator Hestia Wilson of Nucla . . . Announcement that Gov. McNichols plans to appoint Felix Larry Sparks director of the Dep't of Natural Resources has stirred reactions in the Western Slope press.

Grand Junction Sentinel: "We know that Sparks, former Delta lawyer and director of the Colorado Conservation Board since 1958, would do a good job as director of the Department of Natural Resources. Sparks is on leave of absence from the water board job to serve in the Army.

"We dislike losing Sparks from the important post as director of the water board. Sparks and Leonard Kuiper, now acting director, made a good team, with Kuiper doing a lot of behind-the-scenes research and spade work for Sparks, tops as a negotiator, fighter and administrator. Kuiper is a quiet, able technician and analyst.

"The team could continue to work together with Sparks as director of the Department of Natural Resources, but Sparks would necessarily have to devote a lot of his time to other agencies grouped loosely together in the department." (7-15-62)

WATER MEETINGS: Colorado Water Conservation Board meeting is scheduled for September 14 at Durango. Southwestern Colorado Water
Conservancy District will host the CWCB meeting. . . . Commemorative dinner and outdoor celebration for Fryingpan-Arkansas project authorization will take place in Pueblo at about the time President Kennedy signs the Fry-Ark bill. The President has been invited to attend the celebration. . . . Big and dramatic observances of the dedication of Navajo Dam near Farmington in northern New Mexico, set for Sep't. 15-16, may attract President Kennedy and many other dignitaries.

WATER PUBLICATIONS: "Kit Carson County ground water basic data report" has been published by the U.S. Geological Survey, cooperating with Colorado Water Conservation Board. . . . "Floods at Boulder, Colo." is a recent USGS publication available for 50 cents. . . . "Ground water investigations in the Lower Cache la Poudre River Basin" is a forthcoming USGS report which can be inspected in typewritten form at several places in Colorado. . . . "Sealing rocky ditches with clay (or Bentonite)" is a new, easy reading circular published by Colorado State U, Fort Collins. . . . "Modern irrigation and water control methods" is an interesting manual written by Ivan Wood, former USDA irrigation engineer. For copy contact Jay Slifer, Watersaver Co., 3560 Wynkoop, Denver. . . . Reclamation films available for public showings are listed in a new pamphlet available from the Bureau of Reclamation, Denver.

WATER PROJECTS: Afterbay storage reservoir (1,000 to 6,000 acre feet) below Green Mountain Reservoir is being feasibility studied by Bureau of Reclamation engineers. . . . Savery-Pot Hook project in Colorado and Wyoming has been favorably reported to Congress.
This $15.5 million multiple purpose development is a participating unit of the Colorado River storage project. Colorado has asked that the 160-acre limitation of reclamation law be modified for Savery-PH because of the short growing season. Authorization won't be easy. Lifting the acreage limitation is a highly controversial matter. New land would be brought into production. The two-state project service area has a population of only 500. Another fly in the S-PH ointment is that it would probably take Wyoming until after the year 2000 to accumulate enough power revenue credits to repay project costs, unless Colorado helps out with power credit advances. . . . Rep. John Saylor of Pennsylvania has introduced a bill (HR 12422) to increase rates for commercial power generated at Bureau of Reclamation power-plants.

New standards for evaluating water resource projects have been established by President Kennedy. They replace the old Circular A-47 standards issued in 1952 which were considered too restrictive by the National Reclamation Association and others. The new standards greatly liberalize project feasibility requirements. So much so that Rep. Kyl of Iowa questions whether "there will ever be an unfavorable cost-benefit ratio for a project" under the new standards. Sen. Barry Goldwater predicts that the federal agencies will present "fantastic and extravagant" proposals and "cats and dogs" to Congress. Others hail the new standards as one of the administration's most important steps to date in the resources field. Fish, wildlife
and recreation people are highly pleased, for the new standards significantly upgrade their role in federal water projects.

LITIGATION: Colorado-Ute Electric Assn of Montrose is engaged in an all-out legal battle with Public Service Co. of Colorado and Western Colorado Power Co., subsidiary of Utah Power & Light Co. Colorado-Ute is seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission so that it can proceed at once with construction of a $30.5 million steam electric powerplant at Hayden in northwestern Colorado. Ultimately, the Hayden plant may be expanded to four times the proposed initial power output.

Stakes in this power fight are big. Some of the blue chips belong to Colorado River water users. In a power sense, the Hayden plant would replace the controversial Echo Park project which was eliminated from the Colorado River storage project. Reclamation Commissioner Dominy insists that the Hayden plant and a similar plant proposed near Shiprock, N.M. would save the Colorado River storage project millions of dollars in transmission costs and in accelerated construction of participating irrigation projects. Investor owned utilities disagree. They are deeply concerned about the serious competitive threat posed by these large public power plants, financed by secretive, low interest (2 percent) REA loans.

REA loan secrecy is an issue in this power battle. The utilities' attorneys have threatened REA administrator Norman Clapp with contempt of court action if he does not supply court ordered information by
Aug 20. Colorado-Ute's attorney charged that the private power companies are engaging in stalling tactics and legal fishing expeditions. Colorado-Ute says construction delays are costing rural electric co-ops in Western Colorado over $100,000 a month. It's likely to be a long, bitter struggle which will be closely watched by water and power interests throughout the West. PUC hearings have recessed until August 6. Related legal action in district court at Montrose, involving interpretation of a 1955 contract between Colorado-Ute and Western Colorado Power Co., is set for pretrial conference on July 30. This suit could run for years. Eventual appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court appears inevitable.

Senate Document 80 is in federal district court in Denver. This is the contract between eastern and western Colorado water interests for construction and operation of the Colorado-Big Thompson project. A group of Western Colorado water agencies have asked the court to interpret, or construe, Senate Document 80. Judge Arraj denied a motion by the Denver Water Board to dismiss the petition. Early trial is anticipated... In due diligence water adjudication proceedings at Hot Sulphur Springs, Judge Gooding continued the conditional decree for Ute Park Reservoir of the proposed Parshall reclamation project. Gooding denied the Denver Water Board's request that the court eliminate paper decrees for use of water. He continued until July 25, a hearing concerning claims
of the City of Englewood to use of Western Slope water for trans-
mountain diversions. Gooding continued to Aug. 15 a proceeding 
involved a claim of the Bethel Hereford Ranch to divert Williams 
Fork water into the Big Lake Ditch.

Water rights battle underway in district court at Steamboat 
Springs involves rival claims by Colorado River Water Conservation 
District for the Wessels Project and by John Elliott, Denver engineer, 
for his Yampa river transmountain diversion scheme. Judge Gooding 
continued the proceedings to Sep't 17 . . . Water District 40 due 
diligence proceedings have been continued to Sep't 21 . . . Pueblo 
Water Board's proposed $25,000 a year public information program has 
been threatened with lawsuit by Milo J. Flanders who calls the program 
"illegal and immoral" . . . Water flowing through an irrigation ditch 
in Fruita is involved in an $8,500 damage suit which includes $2,000 
for mental pain and suffering.

Negligence by the U.S. government was charged by Judge Arraj 
in Denver in connection with a 1959 drowning in a swimming area 
behind John Martin Dam. Arraj awarded $10,200 damages and said the 
government failed to "provide or require reasonable supervision of 
the leased swimming facilities" . . . U.S. Commissioner's ruling on 
the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park has closed the popular 
fishing area on the Colorado River between Shadow Mountain Reservoir 
and Lake Granby. Action has been started to give administration 
of the area back to the Colorado Game and Fish Dep't . . .
Water rights for the proposed Pueblo Reservoir, key unit of the Fryingpan Arkansas project, have been established in a supplemental decree signed recently by District Judge Cabibi. Symposium on the use of electronic computers for predicting U.S. Supreme Court decisions will be presented at the annual meeting of the American Bar Ass'n in San Francisco, Aug. 6. Colorado River Water Conservation District will protest Rocky Mountain Power Co's recent amendment to its application for Federal Power Commission license. RMPCo seeks the right to add pumped storage to its proposed hydro-electric development on the Sweetwater River in western Colorado.

COLORADO CITIES AND TOWNS: Westminster voters have approved a $2.5 million water bond issue for purchase of water rights, dam construction and distribution system improvements. Golden's new $230,000 water treatment plant will triple treatment capacity. Glenwood Springs' per capita water consumption is three times the national average. Leaky water mains may be a contributing factor. Arvada's new filter plant at Ralston Dam has started operation. Cloud seeding discussions were held at Cedaredge on July 16. Grand Mesa Water Users Assn paid Water Resources Development Corp. of Denver (Krick) $5,000 for cloud seeding on the Grand Mesa watershed from Feb 18 to April 1, 1962. Pueblo Metropolitan Precipitation Reporting Network is the name of a cooperative program sponsored by the Pueblo Star Journal and Chieftain, cooperating with the U.S. Weather Bureau and Pueblo Fire Department. Objective is to establish a way to measure variations in precipitation in different areas of the city.
WATER DISTRICTS: Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District is considering a proposed agreement with the White River Electric Assn. which would resolve water rights conflicts. Colorado River Water Conservation District will ask state and federal officials to provide funds for investigating the Basalt and Ashcroft Reservoir projects as part of the initial construction appropriation for the Fryingpan-Arkansas project. CRWCD is also mapping a potential reservoir site on the White River five miles above Rangely. Ute Water Conservancy District has applied for a loan of $8,929,000 from the federal Housing and Home Finance Agency for construction of the Ute water system in the Grand Valley near Grand Junction. Tri-County Water Conservancy District has forwarded to H&HFA an engineer's feasibility report on a proposed domestic water system in the Uncompahgre Valley.

West Divide Water District is being organized at Silt to sponsor a proposed reclamation project. Vineland Conservancy District has been organized to sponsor the proposed $654,000 Vineland watershed project near Pueblo. Mesa residents are considering formation of a joint water and sanitation district to cope with raw sewage problems. North Fork Water Conservancy District has assumed responsibility for operating and maintaining facilities of the completed Paonia project in western Colorado. This is the first participating project of the Colorado River Storage Project to be turned over to a water user organization for local operation. Orchard City Irrigation District of Delta County has been awarded a $270,000 Small Projects Act loan to be repaid in 50 years.