"In summary, what I am saying is that Congress will continue to equate conservation with wise use; will not put out of reach resources that may be required for our national continuance; and that all the resources will be managed for the benefit of the many and not the few." (Rep. Wayne Aspinall at the White House Conference on Conservation, 5-24-62)

ON CAPITOL HILL: Substitute wilderness bill worked out by Colorado's Rep. Wayne Aspinall and his House Interior Committee staff has been approved by the House Interior subcommittee on public lands. It contains the provisions sought by western water users. Key provision requires an affirmative act of Congress to add new lands to the proposed national wilderness preservation system. Senate-passed version endorsed by conservation groups provided for congressional veto of wilderness areas added by federal agencies. Next: House Interior Committee, House Rules Committee, House floor, House-Senate conference committee.

The conservation lobbies are sure to make a big protest about Aspinall's version of the wilderness bill. But Aspinall is ready.
Helene Monberg, Leadville native and Washington correspondent for Pueblo, Grand Junction and Durango newspapers, recently reported a highly significant discussion between Aspinall and a reporter.

It went something like this:

**Question:** Are you prepared for the conservation lobby knives?

**Aspinall:** "I don't care to be persecuted. But I don't care to give up my principles on this matter either. I know that the leaders of the conservation groups don't like it worth a damn. But their officers are extremists. They ought to know that the great assets of the American people--their public lands--are for all of the American people, not just for a few people to use."

**Question:** What will be the reaction of the average long-haired conservationists?

**Aspinall:** "I think that all of them will go along except those who see the barber only once a year."

**Question:** What reaction do you expect from the Administration and the Interior Dep't?

**Aspinall:** "I've wondered about that too. I don't know. I don't know whether the (House Interior) Committee or the House will take it. The bill puts almost 7 million acres in wilderness by statute. If I were the President I would hate to veto the bill if I knew that was all I was going to get (in the way of a wilderness measure)."

**Question:** Will you recede from the key provision requiring affirmative action by Congress to establish more wilderness areas?

**Aspinall:** "Not on your sweet life . . . This is all that they are going to get out of this legislative proposal to establish a wilderness system as long as I am here."

**Miss Monberg:** "Aspinall may be in for the fight of his legislative career. He will have to try to sell the administration and the House and possibly the Senate-House conference on his new compromise wilderness bill, and to stave off the last-ditch opposition of the conservation lobbyists who will fight tooth and toenail and pillory Aspinall personally as bill sponsor."
Tip-off to Aspinall's wilderness bill philosophy was provided in his speech at the White House conference on conservation on May 24. This speech has been widely quoted in water publications throughout the West. Unfortunately, it has received relatively little attention in Colorado.

Aspinall: "It is my hope and prophecy that Congress will continue to act with moderation in the field of conservation. We are not going to engage now, any more than we did 50-100 years ago, in either wholesale giveaways or wholesale isolation of our resources. We are not going to create mausoleum-like museums in which people cannot go see resources that cannot be utilized, or, even worse, see the surface and be compelled to wonder as to what resources might be uncovered if only we were allowed to look . . . ."

Colorado's wilderness bill effort is bipartisan. Last year, Senator Gordon Allott led an uphill battle in the Senate to provide protective amendments. He went all out for the principle of affirmative action by Congress, but he couldn't get the necessary votes. However, several other significant Allott amendments were adopted by the Senate.

Bitter House floor fight is predicted for the wilderness bill. It has been estimated that up to 1.5 million conservationists across the country are being asked to urge House members to match the liberal Senate version of the wilderness bill. Vigorous efforts to liberalize the wilderness bill before it leaves the House Interior Committee are expected from Rep. John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania.
Incidently, Saylor is in a sour mood following Fry-Ark project authorization. When asked recently whether he thought the wilderness bill would be reported out of the House Interior Committee, Saylor replied, "You Coloradans should care, after you have raped the treasury twice with your projects." (Fry-Ark and Colorado River storage project.)

Water resources research institutes would be established at land grant colleges and state universities under a bill (S 3579) recently introduced by Sen. Anderson of New Mexico. Objective is to develop a more adequate national program of water research. Other recently introduced bills: HR 12684, to provide for construction of the Bostwick Park federal reclamation project in Colorado; HR 12793, to authorize modification of local participation in flood control projects; HR 12119, to authorize recreation development at all Army Engineers water resource development projects; S. Res. 374, concerning the discount rate in analyzing the benefit-cost ratio of water resource developments. None of these late bills have a chance of passage this session. Idea is to get discussion started, then reintroduce next session.

Seven amendments to the watershed and flood protection act have been proposed by National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Included: Increase of allowable flood water detention capacity in a single reservoir to 12,500 acre feet.
Conservation program for the 467 million acres of public lands administered by Bureau of Land Management has been sent to Congress by Interior Secretary Udall. It includes expanded soil and water conservation and sizeable capital investments for outdoor recreation sites and facilities. Hearings will be held this fall in the Rocky Mountain area on a bill introduced by Wyoming senators to give western states 90 percent of the royalties from public lands. Most states now receive 37\% percent of the royalty. Federal reclamation fund gets 52\% percent.

Outdoor recreation bill, which includes $50 million in federal grants to states, is moving in Congress. Senate Interior Committee has approved, Senate floor action is pending. House Interior subcommittee approval appears imminent. Hearings have been held on a bill that proposes to obtain added tax compensation for lands acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Controversial Hanford power project authorization bill has been defeated again in the House. Rep. Aspinall offered an amendment which would have authorized the Atomic Energy Commission to contract with 16 state public utility districts to construct a large electric power plant which would use byproduct steam (now wasted) from AEC's plutonium producing reactor at Hanford, Wash. Private utilities could buy 50 percent of the Hanford Power. Coal and private power interests were blamed by Aspinall for Hanford's second congressional defeat.
COLORADO RIVER: Resistance to further transmountain diversions was voiced at the Democratic Assembly at Glenwood Springs on July 14. District Attorney C. Val Marmaduke of Glenwood Springs headed the committee which drafted the anti-diversion resolution adopted by the Assembly. Glenwood Springs Sage: "They will call details of the (transmountain diversion) water loss to the (attention of) the general public and enlist the assistance of chambers of commerce, service organizations and municipal officials to put a stop to the curtailment of the potential growth of the Western Slope" . . . California Dep't of Water Resources says that studies show that it is feasible to reclaim about 40 percent of the waste water from the Los Angeles metropolitan area at a cost less than that for water from the Colorado and Feather rivers.

Upper Colorado River Commission met recently at Vernal, Utah, decided against supporting a proposal by California's Gov. Brown for a comprehensive inventory of water resources and water demands in the Colorado River basin. Brown has asked governors of the seven basin states to join in his request to Interior Secretary Udall for the inventory . . . Salinity controversy on the lower Colorado River involving water deliveries to Mexico was discussed by Wm. H. Nelson in a series of interpretive articles appearing recently in the Grand Junction Sentinel . . . House Appropriations Committee whacked $768,000 off 1963 funds for the Upper Colorado River storage project, left $106.5 million. Not approved: $358,000 visitor
center at Glen Canyon Reservoir and 15 percent of Glen's recreation facilities budget. **Approved:** $400,000 for design and acquisition of a Bureau of Reclamation dredge to handle the silt problem on the lower Colorado River. Initial storage will start late this year at **Flaming Gorge** Reservoir on the Green River north of Vernal, Utah. Dam will impound 3.8 million acre feet, covering 66 square miles. **Navajo** Reservoir filling started last month.

**WATER PEOPLE:** J. E. Whitten, Colorado's state engineer, has been elected president of the Western State Engineers Assn. Ed Muth, Nevada's state engineer, resigned last month. Sen. Gordon Allott of Colorado has been appointed to the public works subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Allott fills a vacancy created by the death of Idaho's Sen. Dworshak. This powerful subcommittee handles all funds for projects of the Bureau of Reclamation, Army Engineers, Atomic Energy Commission and several other agencies. Bert Hanna, Denver Post staff writer, has received congratulations from Gov. Steve McNichols for his fine reporting job on the Fry-Ark authorization effort.

**Gov. McNichols:** "The capable, clear and objective reporting of the effort, both prior to and during the campaign for passage of the Fryingpan-Arkansas bill in the House of Representatives, had much to do with the successful conclusion of this effort.

"The State of Colorado and the Arkansas Valley will be forever indebted to staff writer Bert Hanna and to the Denver Post for a fine job in this undertaking."
Felix L. Sparks, former director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, has returned from a nine-month tour of active Army duty and has taken over new duties as the state's director of natural resources. Sparks told a reporter in Washington, D.C. last month, "I would be willing to fill in on that job (director of natural resources) on an interim basis until perhaps the first of the year. But I don't want it permanently." Sparks said that development of water projects in the state is his primary interest.

Charles Beise of Denver, attorney for the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and member of the water law recodification committee, is chairman of the national Ducks Unlimited organization.

Colorado Bar Assn has appointed a committee to review the proposed recodification of Colorado water laws: John B. Barnard, Sr., Glenn G. Saunders, Wm. Kelley and Philip Danielson. Colorado engineering societies have appointed a 19-man water law recodification review committee: Thomas Campbell (chairman), Charles Fisk (co-chairman), Mills Bunger, Larry Card, Sterling Dunbar, Melvin Jabara, Dana Kepner, Earl Mosley, Ray Nixon, Harry Potts, George Prince, Ray Chamberlain, Si Elliot, Claude Hunter, Fred Dumler, Bud Vaseen, Eugene Waggoner, Pete Wheeler, Kenneth Wright.

WATER MEETINGS: Colorado Water Conservation Board regular meeting, Sep't 14, at Durango . . . Colorado Water Congress executive committee meeting, Sep't 13 at Durango . . . Upper Colorado River Commission annual meeting, Sep't 17 at Durango . . . Dedication of Paonia Dam, Sep't 29 at Paonia.
WATER LITIGATION: **U.S. Supreme Court** has changed the date for hearing additional arguments in the California v. Arizona litigation over Colorado River water from October 8 to November 13.

... **Underground water depletion case** tried last January at Lubbock, Texas, is moving along. Legal briefs were submitted on August 6, reply briefs are due August 26. ... **Symposium on western water rights** at the February 1963 convention of the National District Attorneys' Assn. will feature discussion of the threat posed by the federal government's claim that it owns all the unappropriated water in California.

**Court test of interstate compact organizations** involving New York Port Authority is being watched for precedent implications by Upper Colorado River Commission's legal staff. ... Arizona v. California litigation is summarized in understandable language in the **Upper Colorado River Commission's annual report**, just released. ... Significant opinion by District Attorney William Knous states that a city may annex an area within a water conservancy district, then, by ordinance, exclude the annexed area from the conservancy district. **Ute's attorney disagrees**, quotes the district's bond consultants who say the law "raises the inference that a municipality does not have the power . . . . to exclude from a district lands which were not in the municipality at the time of the districts organization" but were annexed at a later date. **This legal hassle calls attention to growing water market competition between Grand Junction and Ute WCD.**
Grand Junction Sentinel: "Citizens of Vernal, Utah and Ashley Valley in which Vernal is located cooperated in a valley-wide domestic water project in a way that puts the Grand Junction vs Ute Water Conservancy District fussing and feuding to shame.

"Vernal participated in a project to build a 40-mile pipeline to deliver domestic water to Vernal, Naples, and Maeser and to all the farms and ranches in the valley. The Bureau of Reclamation assisted in the financing of the municipal features of the project, and general obligation bonds were sold. Part of the money was obtained from sale of water taps.

"QUITE A CONTRAST to the situation in which the city and the Ute district are competing for customers in the suburban areas!"

"... The Vernal operation is a model that both the Arkansas Valley in eastern Colorado and the Uncompahgre Valley in western Colorado might well investigate. The Arkansas Valley will get domestic water from the Fryingpan-Arkansas project and the Uncompahgre Valley will get water from the proposed Dallas Creek project." (Wm. H. Nelson, 8-12-62)

**Damage suit ($160,000)** over "noisome stench" allegedly produced by the Grand Junction municipal sewage system probably will not come to trial before November. ... **Water District 43 adjudication** proceedings at Meeker on July 24 heard testimony on several small water claims. No testimony was given on rival claims to water for the proposed **Sweetwater** Hydroelectric Project (Rocky Mtn Power Co.) and for the proposed **Flattops** project sponsored by the Colorado River Water Conservation District. Water claims for **fish flows** are also involved in the complex litigation pending at Meeker. ... **Pueblo Water Board** is obligated by a recent District Court ruling to supply water to a subdivision northwest of Pueblo. Issue involved validity of old land conveyance deeds giving land owners rights to perpetual water service.
Texas well drillers won the first round in their bid for reduced vehicle registration fees on trucks and trailers. District Court authorized issuance of $5 license plates for all vehicles used solely for the purpose of drilling water wells. Texas Attorney General will appeal.

COLORADO WATER NEWSBITS: Owners of summer homes at the Norrie Colony on Fryingpan Creek above Basalt are proposing substitution of two small reservoirs for large Ruedi Reservoir, authorized replacement facility for the Fryingpan-Arkansas project . . . Bureau of Reclamation personnel held meetings this month at Leadville, Basalt, Buena Vista and Salida to discuss the Fry-Ark project with interested local people . . . Contaminated well water is believed to have caused a dysentery illness known as Shigellosis among members of a Pueblo family . . . Conservation scholarships were awarded to 14 Colorado teachers for college study during July aimed at inspiring them with the Colorado conservation message . . . Elaborate water collection system, estimated to have been built by Indians in about 1150 AD, has been discovered at Mesa Verde National Park . . . Snowmelt runoff this year at Western Slope streams was generally below 1957 volumes, but above high year 1952 . . . Fryingpan-Arkansas project headquarters will be established soon in Pueblo by the Bureau of Reclamation.