LET'S LOOK AROUND and see what other states have been doing this past year on water legislation.

Kansas legislature passed an act that provides for the formulation, public discussion and legislative adoption of a comprehensive state water plan. The act also provides state financial assistance to watershed districts that show flood control benefits beyond district boundaries. And it provides state financial support for reservation of storage in federal reservoirs until time of need. Anticipated annual cost to state for storage reservations: $675,000 by 1967, increasing to $5 million by year 2000. State will be reimbursed later by contracts with users of the stored water.

Kansas City Star: "The technique for maximum water utilization through a state board is a pilot effort. It should be watched with interest by other states in the area . . . A half century hence, it may prove to have been among the most important measures before the law-makers in our time." (2-2-63)
Texas legislature passed a bill that implements a constitutional amendment adopted last year providing for state purchase of water conservation storage space in federal reservoirs. It also appropriated funds for a new lab at Texas A&M to test salt accumulations in soil and water for Texas irrigators. Texas Water Development Board has loaned more than $21 million to cities and political subdivisions for surface water projects on which state financial assistance was needed. Texas WDB loans during past fiscal year: $12 million to three cities, three special purpose districts and a river authority.

Wyoming legislature has set aside $1,000,000 for use in providing financial assistance to small water projects costing $100,000 or less. This is in addition to a previous $600,000 state development fund, now fully loaned out for small water projects. Wyoming Water Development Association wants the legislature to authorize a comprehensive study of the state's water laws. Wyoming's state engineer has suggested that consideration be given to legislation providing for recreational use of water.

North Dakota legislature has assured the federal government that the state and its political subdivisions will repay non-federal costs for additional storage in a proposed federal reservoir. It also appropriated $200,000 to a self-help water development fund. Pros and cons of proposing legislation to establish a state water conservation revolving fund are being studied by North Dakota Water Users Association.
Oklahoma legislature passed a maximum development bill which provided that any water project planned or constructed in Oklahoma by any of the federal construction agencies must use each dam site "to the full potential to provide storage of water for all beneficial purposes." Oklahoma will underwrite the cost of providing storage in federal reservoirs beyond the ability of local interests to carry. Previous Oklahoma legislature established an interim water law study committee and gave it this job: Draft legislation stating where riparian rights stop and appropriative rights begin. Resulting legislation was passed this year.

Nebraska legislature passed a municipal water bill last June. It provided for withdrawal of ground water by municipalities from well fields located outside municipal boundaries. And it provided for use of surface water to artificially recharge municipal well fields. Nebraska lawmakers also passed a law that regulates diversions from drainage ditches and other man-made streams. And it established procedures for holding hearings prior to termination of a water right following non-use for more than three years.

Idaho legislature passed an act which provides a method of appropriating ground water. It also defined critical ground water area, defined the authority of its state engineer to grant or deny applications for ground water permits and provided penalties for ground water code violations.
California legislature passed a series of bills affecting governmental immunity (or lack of it). Action followed state Supreme Court decision that doctrine of sovereign immunity would no longer protect public entities. California legislature considered a controversial bill which would provide a reservation of up to 10 acre feet, from existing surplus waters, for dams built for stock watering or domestic purposes on California streams. . . Utah legislature appropriated $1,000,000 this year for its state water project revolving fund.

New Jersey has implemented important water legislation passed in 1958 that authorized state development when water supply projects are beyond local financing capabilities. NJ voters approved a $46 million state bond issue to construct two reservoirs. One involves off-river, high level pumped storage. These state dams will impound surplus streamflow for treatment, transmission and distribution by local interests. State will recover construction costs by charges for metered withdrawals. . . Maryland legislature has authorized its state water pollution control commission to adopt rigid regulations to prevent laundries and car washing businesses from flushing untreated detergents into streams and septic tanks. Commission's regulations, effective next Jan. 1, will require many businesses to install special filtering plants. . . Minnesota legislature has given its state water pollution commission a big stick to use against communities that drag their feet on pollution control.
CALIFORNIA water leaders aren't lining up solidly behind Gov. Brown's proposal to revise Interior Secretary Udall's Pacific Southwest water plan. Brown's comments in a letter to Udall rejected the proposal to enlarge the Colorado River aqueduct for eventual export of northern California water to Arizona. Brown had other "serious but no fatal" objections. He liked Udall's regional approach. Chairman of California legislature's fact-finding committee on water disagrees with Brown. He wants California to go it alone in solving its water problems.

ELEVEN TEXAS CITIES have contracted with Bureau of Reclamation to repay $93 million cost of a large municipal water supply reservoir. Interest charge: 2.63 per cent over 50 years. U. S. taxpayers will pay additional $3 million for flood control features. Project has no irrigation, no hydroelectric power. USBR stepped in when local plans fell through . . . Texas farm ponds constructed with U. S. Soil Conservation Service assistance now number nearly 136,000 and provide storage capacity totaling 312,600 acre feet . . . Dallas city council has contributed $500 to teach SMU professors how to teach water meter reading to water meter readers.

OKLAHOMA display at the 1964 World's Fair in New York City will center around water . . . Pryor, Okla. solved its water tank painting problems by working on the theory that if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. Utilities dep't. offered to let students choose colors and accessories for one tower, if they would agree not to
deface the town's two other towers. Idea went over big. Students raised funds to floodlight their tower, now painted blue and gold with "Pryor Tigers" and "Seniors '64" in big letters.

COLORADO CITIES AND TOWNS: Arvada's clear water reservoir, landscaped into the side of a hill, has a specially designed top that will hold two tennis courts and a volleyball court . . . Lafayette has changed over to complete water metering. Cortez is starting a water metering program . . . Longmont city council has divided opinion as to whether industries using city water should be assessed a tap fee. Longmont ordinance expanded the duties of its water board and required the board to develop a master plan for long range water supply . . . Water rate increases, recent or pending: Platteville, Lafayette, Las Animas, Bayfield, Pueblo. Pleasant switch: Gunnison lowered summer water rates and Cripple Creek cut water rates for bars.

Fort Collins will require all future annexation requests to be accompanied by an offer to sell to the city all water rights used in connection with the lands to be annexed . . . Grand Junction authorized up to $150 credit on water bills to property owners whose irrigation ditches are covered over by the city, thereby cutting off ditch water supply . . . Craig property owners living within five miles of the city's water system have been notified that a city ordinance requires abatement of contamination . . . Windsor has agreed to maintain water lines from the main to the property line.
Water bond issues recently approved: Englewood ($2.5 million by city council), Pueblo ($4 million, voted by ratio of 1.5 to 1), Monticello. Pueblo's net interest rate: 3.2985 per cent, bid Dec. 5 . . . Water bond issues anticipated: Fort Collins, Delta, Cedaredge. . . . Montrose reservoir jinx seems to have finally ended. Clear water reservoir leaked following construction over a year ago. Leaks continued after installation of plastic liner and again after pumping mud into voids. Leaks stopped recently, after floor repairs. City, designer, builder agreed to share repair costs . . . Granby water supply improvements include a specially designed underground concrete water tank that loses no more than one degree of temperature a week.

COLORADO WATER NEWSBITS: Reserve February 10 for the postponed Colorado Water Congress annual meeting . . . John B. Barnard, Jr. has been employed by state officials to develop a program for the comprehensive recodification of Colorado's water laws . . . Charles Boustead, executive director of Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (and chairman of the Colorado Water Congress), and Carl Breeze of Middle Park Water Conservancy District board have been appointed to Gov. Love's new economic development council. . . . Miller Heights Water District directors (Jefferson County) refused to supply information to the governor's local affairs study commission. It evidently was the only special district among 250 in the state which refused to answer a questionnaire . . . Fluoridation law, recently proposed to Gov. Love for legislative consideration,
would require a vote of the people before a city could add fluorine to its municipal water supply.

**Permanent pool** (10,000 acre feet) for recreation has been assured for proposed **Pueblo Reservoir** by Bureau of Reclamation. **Ruedi Reservoir** permanent pool may become controversial on the western slope, unless accomplished by raising height of dam . . . Delay in activating the **Fry-Ark federal-state commission** was criticized recently by Grand Junction Sentinel . . . Renaming of **Pueblo Reservoir** to **Kennedy Reservoir** has been proposed by Pueblo city council and Pueblo county labor council . . . Jefferson County employees recently filled in a dangerous **abandoned well** on private property as a public safety measure.

**Broomfield nature lover** (Dorothy Chambers) wrote a pro-phreatophyte letter to the Denver Post (12-1-63) which may spark critical comment from some of Colorado's "real farmers".

**Dorothy Chambers**: "A real farmer, one who understands nature and works with it, wouldn't part with his phreatophytes. If he did, his springs would stop running, his marshes would dry up, and the ground water would go down for him and his neighbors. What would this western country be like without the cool oasis of willows and cottonwoods along the streams. When man tries to change and regiment nature he always gets into trouble."

**FISH RESERVOIRS**: Colorado Game, Fish & Parks Dep't. has proposed construction of a federally financed **constant-level** fishing reservoir (Dorchester Lake) on the Gunnison River. It would compensate for loss of **stream fishing** caused by construction of Curecanti project dams. As usual, this is a controversial matter.
Conservation News: "The way it looks now, the (Dorchester) lake isn't going to be built. There is a cattle grazing permit on the land in question. Cattlemen don't like to give up one acre of grazing, let alone 200. While the cattlemen offer specific arguments about the proposal, the plain fact is that the ranchers in the Gunnison area resent recreation because it threatens to be of greater economic importance to the country than does the traditional livestock industry. As a result, the Gunnison Chamber of Commerce and numerous other organizations and individuals are now strongly opposing the creation of this fishing lake. As it now stands, the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Department wouldn't touch it with a ten foot pole." (Conservation News, 12-1-63, published by National Wildlife Federation, Wash., D.C.)

Grand Junction Sentinel: "We never could understand the logic behind building fishing reservoirs to replace stream fishing when stream fishermen are so certain of the superiority of their sport as opposed to lake fishing... After the water has served the fish and wildlife and made the anglers happy, it could be diverted downstream by irrigators, municipalities, or industries...If the experiment (proposed multiple purpose use of small reservoirs on tributaries) is a success in the Gunnison basin, ways and means might be found to extend the program to other parts of the state. Farmers, ranchers, cities and sportsmen might find a way of cooperating for a change and all would benefit." (Editorial, 10-30-63)

WATER LITIGATION: Dillon Dam controversy has been reset for trial April 15. Credit Felix L. Sparks, Colorado Water Conservation Board director, with effective backstage efforts aimed at resolving some of the issues out of court and avoiding, if possible, another knock-down, drag-out interslope water fight that might leave Colorado's water flank exposed, at a critical time, to Colorado River water grabs by lower basin interests... Threatened legal action by Adams County Commissioners over Barr Lake pollution was postponed, following a recent meeting with ditch company
representatives . . . Jury in Colorado Springs awarded over $190,000 to a couple for 90 acres of land condemned by the federal gov't for military purposes. Gov't had offered $29,000. Cost difference: Federal project **intercepts the flow** of water to the remaining 2,210 acres.

**WATCH OUT** for a new threat to Colorado water rights:

**U. S. Public Health Service.** USPH's pollution control objectives are fine. But its **method concepts** may add fuel to the growing controversy in the West over subordination of state water rights to over-riding federal control. **Note this:** One of the primary questions USPHS proposes to answer in its forthcoming $125,000 study of South Platte River basin pollution is, "Who are the most suitable water users."

**WE DIDN'T KNOW** how good water can taste to a thirsty water user, until we heard about the **West German professor** who couldn't stop drinking the stuff.

"A West German professor, who drank 10 quarts of water a day for 127 days in an experiment to find out why people get thirsty, found out that when he wanted to end the experiment, he could not stop drinking. Only after several days of using all his will power was he able to cut down to normal water drinking." (Cowles Magazine's Insider's Newsletter, reported in Jack Guinn's Denver Post column, 11-6-63)

**POLLUTION IS A DIRTY WORD** to the Pacific Northwest paper and pulp industry. Survey of industrial leaders revealed that pollution is "a negative term which means dirt and defilement". **Better terms,** suggested by Northwest Paper and Pulp News: Water protection,
water quality control, stream improvement. Greenville, N.C. prefers to call its sewage disposal plant a water pollution control plant. Then there's this new polysaturated polysyllable to add to your water vocabulary: Biodegradable. It's used to describe new detergents being prepared for the market which will be capable of being degraded or absorbed by bacteria.

NEW IDEAS: Water walking shoes have been invented by a Delaware high school teacher. Polystyrene shoes with movable fins enable a 350-pounder to walk 2 mph across lakes and streams.

Lightweight, collapsible water tank developed by Dupont holds 300 gallons, weighs 17 pounds empty. Tanks can be used in relays with hoses and portable pumps. Stopped-up water pipes and drains can be opened by one shot from a new gun that shoots compressed freon gas. Shot costing $1 forces 35 psi gas pressure up to 250 feet inside pipe. This dislodges most obstructions without damaging plumbing.

Refuse incinerator that includes a seawater distillery and a power plant to use the heat is being constructed at $6.5 million cost by the town of Hempstead, N.Y. Non-electric blasting system that is completely resistant to static and other extraneous electricity has been developed by Canadian Industries, Ltd.

Digitor-300 computer, developed by a Denver electronics engineer (Richard M. Garrett) can do water jobs, automatically and economically, for service subscribers: Report broken water lines, monitor and control unattended pumps,
read household water meters. Subscriber needs only local telephone line. Headquarters console can check 900 guard points a minute within a range of 150 miles or more. System may reduce line rental costs by 80 per cent. Research and development cost: $250,000, sponsored by Claude Hathaway . . . Tensiometers, devices used to measure soil moisture content, are being purchased by many California farmers to aid in determining when to irrigate. Cost: About $20 . . . Fordilla faucet, developed by Ford Meter Box Co. for use in underdeveloped countries, discourages waste by turning itself off after delivering a small measured amount of water. When faucet button is pushed, spring-loaded valve opens, dispenses a quart of water, then closes automatically. Fordilla equipped distribution system can be built for one-eighth the cost of conventional system . . . Portable electric generator fueled by materials ranging from coal to cornhusks is being developed at Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio, for remote area use.

ON CAPITOL HILL: Wilderness Bill compromise has been worked out by Rep. John Saylor to answer objections of Colorado's Wayne Aspinall, chairman of the House Interior Committee. Saylor's new bill has concessions to grazing interests and it makes Congress wholly responsible for putting federal land in the wilderness system. Chances of passage of the compromise bill next year appear good. Wilderness Bill hearings have been scheduled for Jan. 10 in Denver.