"Water is the limiting factor to economic growth in every area. We must sit down and take a long look at our water problems. The United States is the greatest water glutton the world has ever known. We must undertake a long-range program and use long-range planning to meet the demands of the next 100 years." (Honorable George Clyde, Governor of Utah - September 16, 1964.)

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UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN FUND THREATENED

THERE WILL BE LESS MONEY available for Upper Colorado River participating projects if reported plans of Secretary of Interior Udall to cut the cost of power generated at Glen Canyon and Flaming Gorge are put into effect. This warning was delivered to the Upper Colorado River Commission by former Governor Ed C. Johnson, Commissioner from Colorado at its special meeting held in Denver on September 7, 1964. Johnson stated that the new rate proposal is substantially below the 6 mill per KWH average rate now in effect. He charged the Commission with both the legal and moral responsibility of protecting Upper Basin water rights and the preservation of the integrity of the Basin fund which pays for Upper Colorado River Reclamation projects. "Because of the severe and prolonged adverse water conditions, the repayment schedule in the Basin fund is now in serious jeopardy. In view of this situation, playing political poker with rate juggling is completely irresponsible," Johnson
charged. He urged the Commission to vigorously oppose the Secretary's proposal to cut power rates. Reduction in power rates is under consideration by Udall to meet competition from private sources.

At the conclusion of a long caucus held during the noon hour, the Commission adopted a resolution that many in the audience considered as being a watered-down version of Commissioner Johnson's strong proposal. The resolution urged the Secretary to exercise his authority and best judgement in negotiating rates on power-sale contracts until 1970 and that thereafter rates be established to yield not less than an average of 6 mills.

Governor Love announced that Colorado officials will demand that Secretary Udall supply them with thoroughly documented facts if any action is taken to reduce rates on the sale of power from the Colorado River Storage Project. "It is inconceivable that Udall would take any action to reduce power rates unless there is no other alternative open to provide for the sale of power from the project," Love said.

Interesting sidelights to this controversy:

Felix L. Sparks: "The crux of the matter is the amount of money that will have to be derived from power revenues to accomplish the purposes of the Colorado River Storage Project Act. We cannot regard the figure of 6 mills or any other figure as sacred. The facts must speak for themselves. As a matter of consistency, the original estimates made in 1956 should remain the same unless changed by actual occurrences. It is our estimate that the continuation of the 6 mill charge will result in net power revenues for apportionment to the states by the year 2049 in the sum of $1,068,000,000. This is $116,000,000 in excess of the anticipated requirements. Our conclusion is that some reduction in the 7 mill power rate can be made. However, the basin fund should not be made to bear the risk of all future uncertainties. If any reduction is made, it should provide for a completely adequate safety margin to the basin fund." (Report to Colorado Water Board - Sept. 5, 1964)
William H. Nelson: "The power rate debate bared a lack of coordination and of unity of Colorado on water and resources policies. Edwin C. Johnson, Colorado Commissioner, presented a resolution opposing any change. The Water Board staff has prepared a memorandum suggesting the possible need for some reductions. Even though the Board staff has repeatedly offered to provide information and data, Johnson works up his statements and arguments himself. This division weakens Colorado in debates and negotiations with other states. When there is sharp disagreement among the states as well, chances of reaching decisions become less. Stalemate often looms as a definite possibility." (The Daily Sentinel - Sept. 9, 1964)

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NARROWS SITE GIVEN GO SIGN FOR DAM ON LOWER SOUTH PLATTE

AFTER A TWENTY YEAR DELAY, the Colorado Conservation Board, in a public meeting held in Fort Morgan on September 12th, finally endorsed a $46 million dollar dam on the South Platte River to be located about 15 miles west of Fort Morgan. The United States Bureau of Reclamation began site reconnaissance surveys in the early 1940's and in 1944 the results of these surveys were published in Senate Document 191. Six separate sites on the South Platte River were studied. In downstream order these sites were the Hardin in Weld County, Goodrich, Weldon, Narrows, Fort Morgan, and Old Fort Morgan. The reconnaissance studies resulted in the selection of the Narrows site; and on July 24, 1946 the United States Congress approved the Missouri River Basin project, which included the Narrows unit in Colorado. The Colorado Water Conservation Board then began to hold a series of public hearings concerning the Narrows unit for the purpose of permitting local and interested persons to express their views concerning the project. At these public hearings, groups residing up-stream from the Narrows site opposed the selected
site location and brought pressure to build the project in Weld County at the Hardin site. The controversy waxed hot and heavy for many years with such intensity that the Bureau of Reclamation and the Colorado Water Board lost interest and the project was abandoned until April 1958 when residents from the Lower South Platte Valley initiated pressure to have the project revived.

The Board agreed to this request and in the years 1959-1963 it furnished $125,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation for further studies on the South Platte River. An additional $75,000 was spent by the state for the employment of consultants and staff time and travel expenses. The Board also appointed a Steering Committee to study all the phases of the controversy and make recommendations. The final outcome of all this study was the Board's action to go along with the recommendation of the Bureau of Reclamation, and support its proposal to build the dam at the Narrows site which reportedly would cost $23 million dollars less than the Hardin site.

The action of the Colorado Water Board was 10 to 0 in spite of strong opposition by proponents of the Hardin site. Craig Goodwin of Gunnison abstained. Water users and irrigation companies appearing before the Board in opposition to the Narrows site threatened to direct all their influence to block the Narrows project when it comes up for appropriations in Congress.

Before adjourning the meeting, Ben Stapleton, Jr., Chairman of the Board, urged the opponents to reconsider their threats to generate Congressional opposition to the Narrows project. He said it would be
tragic if Colorado's united front in obtaining reclamation projects is broken down over this issue.

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OGALLALA WELL WATER USERS PETITION FOR CONSERVATION DISTRICT

THE NORTHEAST COLORADO AREA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, appearing before the Colorado Legislative Committee on Water in Burlington, Colorado on August 31, 1964, urged that legislation be passed to create a High Plains Water Conservation District. The purpose of the legislation would be to permit local water users who pump their water from the Ogallala formation to organize a local water management and development program. The Committee requested the legislature to treat the area as non-tributary to streams outside the area.

"According to history, nothing is done about underground water until the situation becomes critical. Our committee recognizes that conditions are not critical today, but they could become critical in the very near future. Therefore, we feel that now is the time for appropriate action," concluded Ed Amend, Akron, Colorado, spokesman for the Development Committee.

The Ogallala formation is a water-bearing underground aquifer in eastern Colorado extending from Kiowa County north to Sedgwick County and westward to the western boundary of Lincoln County. It lies on an impermeable shale base sloping generally to the east and northeast. The water-saturated thickness of the Ogallala formation varies from zero to over 300 feet, with the thickness increasing from west to east. Water geologists estimate that the formation contains 80 million acre
feet of water in storage, of which 55 million acre feet is available for pumping. The number of wells pumping water from this stratum has increased from approximately 20 in 1936 to a total of nearly 600 in 1964. Mr. Amend summarized by saying, "We have been endowed with a bank account of good fresh water and now is the time to put its use under a system of local controls."

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STATEWIDE WATER NEWS BRIEFS

STATE AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS met in Rifle on September 13 to attend the opening of the Anvil Points Oil Shale Research Center. The group included Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, Senators Gordon Allott and Peter Dominick, Congressman Wayne Aspinall and Governor John Love. The Center will be operated under the auspices of the Colorado School of Mines Research Foundation, Socony Mobil Oil Company and the Humble Oil and Refining Company. Socony Mobil will serve as project manager. The purpose of the research project is to increase knowledge of oil shale technology and help determine whether this section of the country can develop a commercial shale oil business in the foreseeable future. It has been estimated that if and when the oil shale business develops to full capacity as much as 250,000 acre feet of water will be required each year to serve municipal, domestic and industrial needs.

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PUEBLO AREA TO GET NEW WATER SUPPLY. Ground was broken on September 4 for the start of construction of a million dollar domestic water system planned by the St. Charles Mesa Water Association. Involved in
the project will be pumping equipment, chlorinators, storage tanks, meters and more than 50 miles of pipe lines. Water will be supplied by 4 wells. The system will provide domestic water to 582 families in the area and it will have a capacity of approximately 200,000 gallons a day. The project was made possible by a $922,000 loan from FHA and a $50,000 fund raised by the Association members. Completion date is estimated at June 1, 1965.

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EASTERN COLORADO IN GRIP OF SERIOUS DROUTH. The eastern plains area of Colorado is approaching a situation as disastrous as the dust bowl days of the 1930's. This report was made by Paul W. Swisher, State Commissioner of Agriculture, who said that it may be too late for farmers and ranchers in the area to harvest sufficient forage and feed grain for winter. The most serious drouth problem exists in Pueblo, Lincoln, Baca, Crowley and Kit Carson Counties. Farmers in those counties have petitioned for the right to graze livestock on soilbank lands, and for feed grain from a program established by the Agricultural Conservation and Stabilization Act. Swisher said that the drouth has caused millions of dollars in crop losses as well as economic hardships.

A group of drouth-plagued farmers who had retained the services of rainmaker F. Neal Bosco of Denver decided to cancel his contract after a 17 day test failed to produce rain. Bosco was paid $1750 by the Arkansas Valley Weather Improvement Corporation after he had promised to produce an inch of rain on 60 percent of Kiowa and Prowers Counties, according to the corporation president, E. L. Hatcher. If the rainmaker had made good on his promise he would have been hired for an
additional 75-day period at $3500 a month. Corporation board members have scheduled a meeting to decide on future action. This could range from dropping the whole idea to hiring another rainmaker.

MONTROSE BOOSTS WATER RATES. Residents of Montrose, Colorado will pay more for water according to an ordinance adopted by Council on September 3. Rates for metered water inside the city are to be $6.18 per quarter for the first 10,000 gallons, 34 cents per thousand gallons over the minimum and up to 76 thousand gallons, and 25 cents per thousand gallons over 76 thousand. Rates for metered water outside the city are to be $10.31 per quarter up to 76,000 gallons and 25 cents per thousand over 76 thousand gallons.

CRAIG OKAYS WATER BONDS. Craig voters have approved a $395,000 bond issue for improvement and expansion of the city water system. The project includes a conversion of the present water filtering plant to a micro-flow system to increase the capacity and storage facilities to hold the filtered water prior to pumping it into the mains.

COLORADAN RECEIVES AWARD. James Patton, President of the National Farmers Union, will receive the Leland Olds Award for distinguished service in natural resource development at the Western States Water and Power Consumers Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota October 1 and 2.

COLORADO WATER AUTHORITY DIES. Walter Edward Blomgren, 72, an authority on water development engineering, died September 6 at his
home in Denver. Blomgren was a former Assistant Chief Engineer of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. At one time he served as chairman of the U. S. National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage.

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BLUE RIVER WATER SERVES DENVER IN THE NICK OF TIME. More than 50 percent of Denver's water supply is now coming from the Blue River storage in Dillon Reservoir. This was a recent report given to the Denver Water Board by its manager Robert S. Millar. Millar told the Board that without the Blue River Diversion Project, which has been operating since July 17th, Denver now would be faced with drastic water use restrictions.

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COLORADO, NEST OF THIEVES. This accusation was hurled at Colorado in an editorial headline of the Wichita Eagle and Beacon of Wichita, Kansas in its Sunday edition August 23rd. This newspaper contested Colorado's plans to initiate a cloud-seeding project to squeeze water out of cloud formations over the headwaters of the Arkansas River. "There ought to be some recourse against this kind of theft, which will empty the clouds before they will ever get to Kansas," the article stated. Frank S. Hoag, Jr., Publisher of the Pueblo Chieftain and Star Journal, took exception to this editorial in a letter to Mr. Marcellus M Murdock, Publisher of the Wichita Eagle and Beacon. Hoag called Murdock's attention to the Kansas-Colorado Arkansas River Compact and the construction of John Martin Reservoir west of Lamar which benefits western Kansas as well as eastern Colorado. "In any case, I think it
would be much better if we worked these problems out rather than calling anyone a thief," wrote Hoag.

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FLAMING GORGE RESERVOIR MAY BE LOWERED 71 FEET. The surface level of Flaming Gorge Reservoir in southwest Wyoming will probably be lowered as much as 71 feet by April 1 of next year. The Bureau of Reclamation reports that this drawdown will be necessary to hold Lake Mead behind Hoover Dam on the Colorado River at power producing level, and that it will be replaced by next spring's runoff.

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GLEN CANYON STARTS PRODUCING COMMERCIAL POWER. The city of Shiprock, New Mexico became the first consumer of commercial electric energy produced at the Glen Canyon Dam power plant. The delivery started September 3 over the 230,000-volt transmission line extending from Page, Arizona to Shiprock. The next deliveries will go to Phoenix and to customers in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. By July 1966 it is expected that all 8 generators at Glen Canyon will be in production.

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PRESIDENT URGES WORLD WATER PROJECT STUDY. President Lyndon Johnson recently invited the nations of the world to join with America in developing a nuclear program aimed at converting sea water into fresh water for industrial and domestic use. President Johnson's invitation was sent to the third United Nations Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy now in session at Geneva, Switzerland.

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THIS AND THAT, HERE AND THERE

Colorado River Board of California engineers say there is only one chance in a hundred that both Lake Mead back of Hoover Dam and Lake Powell
back of Glen Canyon Dam will be filled by 1975. The Board urges that studies be made of all sources of surplus water throughout the West. The study is to be used in designing a water plan that would bring the entire Southwest area into water balance. (WESTERN WATER NEWS-September 1964) . . . The Federal Power Commission on September 14 delayed until after December 31, 1966, consideration of two applications for authority to build hydroelectric projects on the Colorado River. This action will delay the Arizona Power Authority's plans for the construction of the proposed Marble Canyon Dam. Marble Canyon would be a unit of the proposed Pacific Southwest water plan . . . The Bureau of Census reports that the 1963 farm population dropped about 5 percent while at the same time the population of the United States increased about 5 percent . . . The new program of federal grants to universities provided by the recently enacted Water Resources Research Act will be administered by the U. S. Office of Water Resources Research. Dr. John C. Calhoun, Jr., will serve as acting director as well as an assistant secretary to Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior . . . Federal Government installations are a major source of pollution, and its departments provide "poor" leadership in water pollution abatement throughout the nation. This is the conclusion of a 14-month study made by the Natural Resources and Power Sub-Committee of the House Committee on Government operations. (WATER NEWSLETTER, September 9, 1964) . . . Maurice C. Wren has been named Assistant Project Engineer for the Curecanti Unit of the Colorado River Storage Project, the Bureau of Reclamation announced.
Reporting on the project, the Bureau stated that Blue Mesa Dam is about three fourths complete and Morrow Point Dam is about fifteen percent complete. All restrictions on water use have been removed for customers of the Englewood Water Department. A three-member federal committee has recommended that ranchers in the drought-stricken areas of the eastern plains of Colorado be permitted to graze livestock on soilbank lands and to purchase feed grain at 25 percent of the commercial market value. Governor John Love has put his stamp of approval on this recommendation. Directors of the Southeast Englewood Water District, by a 3-2 decision, voted to enter into final negotiations with the Denver Water Board for a full service contract, severing a tie with Englewood since 1956. Several surface water users in the Montrose area have filed a suit in the Montrose District Court protesting the use of underground water and its effect on the adjudicated water rights. The plaintiffs, occupying the western end of Paradox Valley, charged that the defendants who operate wells along Paradox and Huff Creeks are lowering the water table in the area to the detriment of the plaintiffs.

An unhappy trout that had been dumped in the Taylor River above Gunnison, Colorado left his new home and migrated to Lake Powell before it decided to quit its journey. The trout was caught from Lake Powell and it was found to be carrying a tag from the Silver Springs Trout Ranch at Montrose. Wayne Seaman of the Game, Fish and Parks Department estimated that the trout had covered about 400 miles before reaching its destination.