"It is a strange paradox of our existing law that the surface waters of the state are adjudicated and administered at great expense, while on the other hand, the equally important ground water resource is ignored. The two uses are now on a collision course, without having to be so. Ground water uses should be entitled to protection consistent with constitutional mandates." (Felix L. Sparks, Colorado Water Conservation Board)
RECLAMATION GROUP SHELVES STATES' WATER VETO POWER

THE NATIONAL RECLAMATION ASSOCIATION at its annual convention in Palm Springs, California on November 13 rejected a suggested resolution which would have called for state veto powers on federal water projects involving interstate movement of waters. Instead, the delegation by a 9 to 5 vote passed a substitute resolution which urged that Congress include in project authorizations clauses that protect a state's existing water rights. The resolution further declared that if federal studies show interstate transportation is against a state's interest, "that the affected states create an interstate commission to attempt to resolve any conflicting interests."

COURT BATTLE LOOMS OVER UNDERGROUND WATER

THE QUESTION of the rights of underground well owners to pump water which belongs to surface rights holders is scheduled to go to court. A suit is to be filed on behalf of Arkansas Valley Ditch companies which will challenge the action of the Highline Canal of Rocky Ford and the Oxford Farmer's Ditch Company of Fowler in putting down a battery of wells near their ditch headgates and pumping water out of the underground basin of the Arkansas into the ditches.

Jack Ross and Glenn G. Saunders, attorneys for the Denver Water Board, have been retained by the plaintiffs who are the Catlin Canal Company of Rocky Ford and the Fort Lyon Canal Company of Las Animas. Ross said, "it is our hope to present the issues so clearly that the courts will have to give some kind of relief." Saunders indicated
that the Highline and Oxford companies have put down wells to draw more water for their customers than the law allows them to draw from the river had they relied on surface rights alone. He indicated it was simply a matter of drawing river water from the bottom of the river rather than the top. "The companies," he said, "have put in wells and pumped water into the canals below their weirs which measure their lawfully decreed surface water."

The question of ground water rights vs surface water rights has been increasing in Colorado in direct proportion with the increase in the number of pumped water irrigation wells. The Legislative Committee on Water, headed by Frank L. Gill (R-Hillrose), has been studying this problem during the past year. At its meeting in Denver on October 8, the Committee rejected recommendations that the state's ground water should be put under a priority system along with surface waters. The Committee has proposed a three-year moratorium on the right of priority users in the plains to call for deliveries of waters slated for irrigation of mountain meadows. The moratorium was proposed by Sen. Harry Locke (R-Hartsel). His plan would allow mountain residents to use water for irrigation purposes in spite of a call by a downstream user with a senior decree.

NEWS BITS THROUGHOUT THE NATION

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR has announced new procedures designed to eliminate the need for future reduction in diversions of water from the Colorado River in the lower Colorado Basin. These new
procedures call for the Bureau of Reclamation to confer with each group of water users holding a contract for water delivery from the lower Colorado River. The meetings will pursue all necessary conservation measures and operating practices in the diversion and delivery of water. After the meetings are held, "a preliminary determination will be made of the most desirable conservation measures and operating practices to the end that deliveries of Colorado River water to contractors will not exceed the amounts reasonably required for beneficial use." Determinations will then be made based on consultation with each contract water user to develop a set of standards for optimum conservation of water, both in terms of water to be delivered and in water management practices.

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UTAH SENATOR URGES MULTI-BILLION WATER PLAN. Senator Frank E. Moss (D-Utah), chairman of a special sub-committee on western water development, has urged a joint U. S. - Canadian project in studying a proposed $100 billion water project which has been named the North American Water and Power Alliance. This project, first proposed by the Ralph M. Parsons Company, an engineering firm in Los Angeles, would dam the waters of Alaska and Canada and divert them by tunnels and canals through the western parts of Canada and the United States for domestic use, irrigation, electric power generation and other uses. The subcommittee noted predictions that the nation's population would be trebled by the year 2000 and that detailed studies should be made
of all potential water development projects regardless of their magnitude.

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U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WAYNE N. ASPINALL, Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, speaking at a congressional field hearing on the Central Arizona Project warned that project authorization must contain proper safeguards for the upper states of the Colorado River Basin. The project involves two new dams on the Colorado between Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams. It proposed to bring 1.2 million acre-feet of water a year to supplement water supplies for municipal, industrial and agricultural use in Central Arizona. Aspinall obtained assurances from Sen. Carl Hayden (D-Arizona) that there is no intention on the part of the Lower Basin States to break into the Colorado River Compact or to interfere with Upper Basin States in their water developments.

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GLEN CANYON POWER TIED TO HUGE GRID. A huge network of public and private power transmission systems servicing 40 million kilowatts of generating capacity in the Western United States was tied together Tuesday, October 20, by interconnections through the Colorado River Storage Project transmission grid, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced.

"The interconnection," Secretary Udall said, "is a great forward step in collaboration of all segments of the industry to assure maximum utilization of available generating and transmission facilities, hydro and thermal alike. It is a forerunner of the advantages which will be possible when the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest direct
current and extra high voltage transmission system is accomplished."

The huge intertie interconnected the Glen Canyon power plant (CRSP), the Flaming Gorge power plant (CRSP), the Curecanti substation near Cimarron, Colorado and the Four-Corners power plant of the Arizona Public Service Company in northwestern New Mexico. This interconnection will provide intertie with the Utah Power and Light Company and the Pacific Power and Light Company which will connect Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain power pools. The interconnection with the Four-Corners power plant provides intertie with the New Mexico power pool through the Arizona Public Service Company.

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UPPER COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION OPPOSES BASIN CONSOLIDATION.
The Commission at its regular annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah on November 5 agreed to continue its fight to see that the Colorado River Basin is maintained as two basins (upper and lower) if the proposed National Resources Planning Act passes Congress. Members of the Commission want to make certain that planning for the Colorado River will be done under the two-basin concept, and not for the entire river as a whole. The Colorado River Compact and the Colorado River Storage Project Act both separate the Upper Basin as a distinct entity and this separation should be maintained in all future Colorado River water legislation, the Commission contended.

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BUREAU STARTS ATMOSPHERIC MOISTURE STUDY. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has announced a new program to find atmospheric sources of water to serve the West. The Bureau has awarded three major contracts, totaling $568,729, to the University of Wyoming's Natural Research Institute, the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences, South Dakota School of Mines and the firm of E. Bollay Associates of Colorado Springs. The purpose of the contracts is to develop methods of getting more water from the air onto the arid regions of the West. Commissioner Dominy in his announcement expressed confidence that this research will add greatly to the body of evidence that man can influence the weather to obtain a better distribution of water.

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THE VOICE OF THE OPPOSITION

FLOYD E. DOMINY, U.S. Commissioner of Reclamation, has challenged a speech by Dr. Richard C. Bradley, Colorado College physics professor, attacking the proposed Southwest Water Plan involving new dams on the lower Colorado River. In his speech Bradley had charged the project as "expensive and wasteful." Dominy accused Bradley of misstatements of fact and disservice to western water conservation. "The needs of the people appear to count for nothing in all of Dr. Bradley's thinking," Dominy said. The commissioner insisted that neither he nor Secretary Udall wants to destroy or injure the scenic values of Grand Canyon. He added that the proposed project would encroach on Grand Canyon National Park in only a minor way, and in an area far downstream from where visitors have access to the park.
Commenting on Bradley's charge that the Colorado River Storage projects will lose 2 million acre-feet of water to the atmosphere annually by evaporation, Dominy countercharged: "As for evaporation, of course water evaporates. But how much water would be lost each year to the sea without any dams at all? The answer is that 99 per cent would be lost every year without storage for beneficial use by man."

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"THE RECLAMATION PROGRAM in the 17 Western States is in serious trouble and in part this situation is of the West's own making."
This statement was made by Rep. John P. Saylor (R-Penn) speaking before the delegates to the annual convention of the National Reclamation Association in Palm Springs, California on November 13. Saylor charged that "while reclamation has been and should continue to be a vital factor in the growth and prosperity of the nation, the policies and programs of the career employees of the Bureau of Reclamation have wandered so far afield from the basic goals that it seems reclamation has become of only incidental importance." He said "the present officials of the Bureau have become so preoccupied with efforts to develop unnecessary hydroelectric power projects and federal power transmission grants that their thinking has become as arid and barren as the western lands they were formerly charged with reclaiming."

Saylor pointed to an audit by the General Accounting Office in 1960 that found the power operations of the Missouri River Basin Project
had accumulated a deficit of $51 million from annual losses going back to 1954. "How can it be truly claimed that power is a paying partner of irrigation when it isn't even paying its own way?" he asked.

Commissioner Dominy in a statement before the convention the next day ridiculed Saylor's statements as not in accord with the facts. "The cold facts of life are that without the assistance of hydropower and other revenues, the number of reclamation projects which can be undertaken under present repayment policies can be counted on the fingers of one hand," Dominy said.

GAME AND FISH ORDERED TO INVESTIGATE STREAM POLLUTION

GOVERNOR JOHN LOVE has ordered the Game, Fish and Parks Department to conduct a biological investigation of reports of pollution of the Fryingpan and Roaring Fork Rivers as a result of initial construction at the Reudi Dam site. Love said that he took the action in response to complaints by local interests. The investigation will include a study of the dumping of gravel-washing water into the Fryingpan. Objectors are claiming that this water is endangering fish life and environment. The pits are being dug on property owned by Orest Gerbaz of the State Game, Fish and Parks Commission. Gravel from the pits is being processed for the construction of the Reudi Dam. A spokesman for the department said that there is a possibility that the silt being washed into the river will destroy the fish food.
NEW DEVELOPMENTS

A WESTERN SLOPE FARMER has solved the vexing problem of clogged ditch pipes being used in sprinkler irrigation systems. The idea was invented by Ed Forshee of Grand Valley, Colorado. It consists of a sluice box with a screen over the vented outlet pipe at the bottom. A swinging gate is attached at the lower end of the sluice box below the screen. The gate is counter-weighted to close. When excess water fills the sluice box, trash is floated to the surface. When this water reaches a certain depth, pressure opens the swinging gate and the trash is washed away. Forshee claims "the longer the device operates, the cleaner it gets." (The Daily Sentinel, October 26, 1964)

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NEWLY DEVELOPED SOFT DETERGENTS can be effectively handled by natural soil processes, according to University of California's P. H. McGauhey. Full production of the materials is expected by mid-1965.

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THE HAMMERMILL PAPER COMPANY of Pennsylvania recently unveiled the first of a proposed series of deep disposal wells that promise an almost unlimited capacity for untreated effluent from the company's pulping operations. The well will carry 500,000 gallons of pulping liquor to a brine-bearing limestone formation some 1600 feet below the surface. Geologists report that this limestone formation covers thousands of square miles under western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia and that the formation is so huge
that it will accept Hammermill's waste for fifty years without exceeding a circle of one and one-half mile in radius. (Water and Wastes Digest - September-October 1964)

**THIS AND THAT - HERE AND THERE**

The City of Crawford, Colorado is planning a new $151,000 domestic water supply system. Construction is scheduled to start this winter. A loan of $136,000 was secured from Farmers Home Administration to be repaid over a 40 year period to finance part of the project. The remainder of the cost will be assessed against tap owners . . .

Grand Junction City Planners are studying the possibility of forming a metropolitan water and sewer system designed to serve outlying suburban areas. Under the system, the city would bond itself to cover construction and maintenance costs and cut service charges in half for any area coming into the city by annexation. Bonds issued on existing sewer or water systems could be purchased by the city when their owners wish to be included in the metropolitan district. (The Daily Sentinel, October 28, 1964) . . . Montrose voters on October 28, overwhelmingly defeated a power feasibility study sought by a citizens committee. The study was sought by the committee which proposed that the city should acquire the local power distribution system and purchase power directly from the federal government . . . The City of Telluride has awarded a $97,496 contract for the improvement of its water system to the Grand Mesa Construction Company of Grand Junction. June of 1965 has been set as the completion date . . .
The Bureau of Reclamation has announced invitations for bids for two fixed wheel gates for the penstock intake structure of Morrow Point Dam, one phase of the Curecanti project on the Gunnison River. Bids will be opened at 2 P.M. December 1, at the bureau office in Denver.

Broomfield has started construction on the expansion of its water system. The project is estimated to cost $500,000 and it is planned to meet the city's water needs through 1971. Completion is slated for the spring of 1966.

The Aurora City Council has voted to condemn 50 acres of land for the construction of a raw water filter plant north of Cherry Creek Dam near the city. The plant will be a part of the 58 million Homestake Diversion project being constructed jointly by Aurora and Colorado Springs. The land was appraised at $75,000 but the holders of an option to buy are asking $112,000. Council vote to condemn was unanimous.

Electric service to 108 new wells has been installed in the San Luis Valley this year. This brings the total to 1050 wells.

The City of Delta has authorized the purchase of the Naomi Hart Ranch of Austin for the purpose of supplementing its water right. The ranch includes a 1.2 sec-ft right in the Delta County Ditch.

Colorado will receive up to $2 million from the federal government under the new land and water fund conservation program for recreational development limited by two big ifs: (1) if the state prepares a recreation plan; and (2) if the state matches the fund dollar for dollar.

The shotgun wedding between private Western Power Company on the Western Slope and public Colorado-Ute Electric Association has wound up in divorce. Henceforth, the $13 million steam electric power plant near Nucla will be managed and operated by Colorado-Ute.