"NORTHCUTT ELY, California's highpowered and highly paid water lobbyist, wants the upper basin states of the Colorado River to accept 'on faith' promises that are being made in an effort to push the Central Arizona Project through Congress . . . . Experience has taught us to be skeptical and distrustful. We hope that lesson will enable us to survive." (From Editorial, Denver Post, September 1, 1965)

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CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT CONTINUES IN CONTROVERSY

A COMPROMISE PLAN proposed to develop unity between the upper and lower basin states on the $1.3 billion Lower Colorado River Plan was faced with cool reception by most members of the Colorado River Advisory Committee, a group composed of legal and engineering water representatives throughout Colorado. Felix L. Sparks, director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, says he will recommend acceptance by Colorado of the rewritten proposal which would provide:

- Authorization of the $1.3 billion Lower Colorado River Basin Project to include the $800 million Central Arizona Project which would divert 1.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water to Central Arizona.

- Simultaneous authorization of 13 projects on Colorado's Western Slope costing approximately $540 million for the purpose of bringing to full use Colorado's allocated share of the river under the compact.

Of the Colorado projects to be authorized, three, already proven feasible, would be given "absolute authorization." These are the Animas-La Plata, Dolores and Dallas Creek projects in southwestern Colorado. Ten other projects would be "conditionally authorized," dependent upon a later showing of feasibility. These projects are the West Divide, San Miguel,
Yellow Jacket, Bluestone, Battlement Mesa, Grand Mesa, Upper Gunnison, Basalt, Juniper, Troublesome and Rabbit Ears (Middle Park).

The rewritten proposal was the result of a conference of Colorado River Basin representatives meeting in Washington following the late August congressional hearings on the measure. Director Sparks was Colorado's representative and is said to have had a leading role in designing the new proposal. Sparks in his report to the Colorado River Advisory Committee said, "I think this is the best approach we have seen so far toward basin-wide cooperation and development; and we can write all kinds of safeguards into the legislation but if we don't get our own projects so that we can use all our own water, we fail in our objectives."

In many quarters the compromise plan was viewed with skepticism. A representative of the eastern slope said, "It doesn't do any good to build dams that will impound no water. The only way to solve the Colorado River problem is to assure importation." The plan is also expected to produce interbasin conflicts over the proposed projects.

Ed C. Johnson, former Colorado governor and senator, assailed the plan as a giveaway of Colorado rights in the river and challenged Colorado to "stand up and fight, and wave our flag." "This is the end of the road," Johnson said, "and I say that if we accept this phony proposition it would be complete surrender."

Johnson insisted that Colorado must take a firm stand that water importation from another basin be an absolute condition in the bill,
and that the bill should be amended to require the preparation of an importation plan by 1967.

Governor John Love said, "The proposed compromise bill for water development on the Colorado River is a tentative suggestion not approved as yet by anybody, and we are far from a conclusion on a Colorado policy."

"It is of the utmost importance to the future of the whole basin," Love said, "but it is not something we are going to take quick action on. The proposal needs understanding and analysis by a great many people."

Frank Delaney, Glenwood Springs attorney, called for "a great deal more study on the proposal." Delaney said it was his feeling that the proposal "will, in a measure, ratify acts of Congress superseding the Colorado River Compact." Delaney expressed fears of the ultimate consequences of repealing or greatly modifying the Compact.

Floyd Bishop, Wyoming State Engineer, stated that he hoped Colorado would modify its position on acceptance of the compromise. Speaking before a Lions Club meeting in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Bishop said "the compromise appears to be heavily slanted in Colorado's direction and is not acceptable to Wyoming or perhaps the other upper basin states." Bishop warned, "It is imperative that upper basin states, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico, 'stick together' in the current situation if we are to avoid the risk of losing our unused water to the lower basin forever. We hope Colorado will modify her position."

Representative Byron Rogers, (Colo), denounced the compromise plan as "ill conceived and irresponsible." He called on the people of Colorado
to take a better look at it and he said that he will ask Representative Wayne Aspinall, (Colo), chairman of the House Interior Committee, not to go along with the proposal until it can be amended to protect Eastern Slope water rights. Rogers expressed concern that the proposal as it has been rewritten will make Denver's water rights in the Upper Colorado River junior to both the Central Arizona and the proposed new Colorado Western Slope projects.

During a recent trip to Portland, Oregon, leading representatives of the fish canning industries on the Columbia River were interviewed by your editor. Concensus was that diversion from the Columbia would not be opposed by Oregon if the point of diversion was installed below Longview, located about 30 miles upstream from the mouth of the Columbia. Canners also will demand that diversions from the Columbia be made during times of the year and in such quantities which will not effect the salmon runs.

Felix L. Sparks, in a summation of the reaction on the compromise to date, announced that the Tri-County Water Conservancy District of Ouray, Montrose and Delta Counties, and the Uncompahgre Water Users Association have adopted resolutions supporting the rewritten measure. Sparks said the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, headquartering in Pueblo and representing water interests in most of the Arkansas Valley, adopted a qualified resolution supporting the compromise by requesting the bill be strengthened by: (1) Protecting upper basin future water use; (2) providing that legislation authorizing Colorado projects listed in the bill contains provisions protecting
existing transmountain diversion rights as senior to the future projects.

ECONOMICAL GROWTH COUNCIL CREATED

REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVEN ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES recently met in Denver and organized a regional economic council. The purpose of the council will be to develop ways and means to use science and technology to improve economic conditions in the region. Member states include Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Each state will be represented on the council by its governor and three of his appointments. Governor John Love announced that Dwight Neill, director of the Colorado Division of Commerce and Development, will serve as secretary of the council until the organization is finally completed.

BRECKENRIDGE CHARGED AS POLLUTERS

THE COLORADO STATE BOARD OF HEALTH has charged the Western Slope ski and resort town of Breckenridge, Colorado to be in violation of state sewage treatment laws. Raw sewage from four Breckenridge outfall lines is being discharged into the Blue River seven miles upstream from Dillon Reservoir, the newest and largest of Denver's water supply system. Possible board action against Breckenridge was deferred until December 13 when the board will hear a progress report on plans for a $315,000 sanitary sewer district in Breckenridge. Stanley V. May, a senior engineering technician with the State Health Board, testified at a public hearing on the problem that test samples taken last spring and summer showed the sewage being pumped into the Blue River constituted a public health
hazard. It is estimated that if the townspeople approve a bond issue to provide the money it will take a year to finish the project.

CHATFIELD DAM APPROVED BY PARKS GROUP

THE REGIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION has adopted a resolution supporting the proposed construction of the Chatfield Dam on the South Platte River near Littleton. Association members urged other groups and organizations to adopt similar resolutions to support the project which was once authorized but not completed for lack of community support.

NEW WATER COMPANY LAUNCHED

THE HIGH MOUNTAIN WATERLINE COMPANY, headed by William G. Thompson of Boulder, is organizing a $20 million water transportation plan after completing a water deal with John P. Elliott, Denver consulting engineer and original developer of the Aurora-Colorado Springs Homestake Project. The transaction involves a portion of the water rights on which Elliott has filings in the Rabbit Ears area near Steamboat Springs. The project will collect from the upper Yampa River for delivery to North Park. It will then involve diversion of water from the southeast area of the park by exchange. The construction scheme involves four major dams, two water treatment plants and two closed-storage reservoirs, and it will deliver about 20,000 acre-feet of water annually to the service area north and east of Boulder. Elliott said the High Mountain deal for use of water which he has developed is merely the start of an ambitious program of his newly formed Four-County Water Users Association.
NATIONAL RECLAMATION ASSOCIATION MAKES APPOINTMENT

REGINALD C. PRICE, deputy director of policy, California State Department of Water Resources, has been named chairman of the National Reclamation Association's Committee on Outdoor Recreation. The appointment was made by Hugh A. Shamburger of Reno, association president, to succeed Dean Kastens, director of the Nevada Park Department, who resigned. Price, upon the notice of his appointment, said the purpose of the committee is to encourage water-associated recreation as part of water projects in the Western States grouped within the jurisdiction of the National Reclamation Association.

FORMER RECLAMATION HEAD APPOINTED

F. M. Clinton, former director of Region 4 of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, who retired on September 6, has become associated with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

Congressional action to create a permanent recreation pool at John Martin Reservoir was completed when the Senate approved by voice vote a House-Senate conference action including the measure in the omnibus public works authorization bill. The pool provision becomes a reality upon the signature of the president. The proposal for the pool was included in House action on the omnibus bill by Representative John E. Evans, freshman Congressman from Pueblo.

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It is reported that a Senate-House Conference Committee is expected to get together soon on legislation to continue the Small Reclamation Projects Program. The conferees' job is to settle differences in companion bills passed by the Senate and House. Both bills would double authorized spending for private project loans and grants. If this compromise is approved and the bill is signed by the President, spending on the program will be increased from $100 million to $200 million.

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The directors of the Tri-County Water Conservancy District, headquartered in Montrose, have voted to increase their tax levy to one mill for 1966. Robert Field, manager of the district, said the increase will cover costs of detailed engineering of the Uncompahgre Pipeline and placing the Dallas Creek Project under legislation. The feasibility report prepared for the Dallas Creek Project is in the process of being reviewed and readied for legislation. Field said "The report is being delayed due to uncertain policy rulings by the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Commission." The uncertainty is due to a national policy applicable to reclamation projects, Field said, which require some local or state agency to pay half the cost of recreation, fish and wildlife developments.

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The U.S. Forest Service is spending $1 million to build snow fences on the top slopes of 12,095-foot Independence Pass to improve Colorado's water supply. The project is a pilot phase, part of a nation wide program to determine if snow piled behind the snow fences will extend the total summer's run-off. Tony Skufca, supervisor of the San Isabel National Forest at Pueblo, said "The fences will hold back run-off by building up snow drifts 10 to 20 feet high and that for every foot of snow covering a one-mile distance, 1000 acre-feet of water is produced and that the drifts should delay run-off for up to five weeks."

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A group known as the Upper Arkansas River Basin Committee has been organized to coordinate development activities in the Arkansas Valley from Great Bend, Kansas to its headwaters near Leadville, Colorado. Lyle Baker of Syracuse, Kansas was named as chairman of a temporary steering committee to guide the organization of the basin committee. Fred Betz, Sr., Lamar newspaper publisher, was appointed a member of the committee.

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City officials from Aurora and Colorado Springs met on September 25 at the western portal of the Homestake Tunnel, a phase of the multi-million dollar Homestake Project, to participate in ceremonies marking the "honing through" of the 5.4 mile-long tunnel. Mayor Harry W. Hoth of Colorado Springs and Aurora Mayor pro tem Tracy Whitaker detonated the final explosion. Aurora City Manager Robert O. Wright served as master of ceremonies assisted by Ray D. Nixon, director of the Colorado Springs Public Utilities Department. The Homestake Project will collect water from the upper tributaries of the Eagle River on the Western Slope and divert it through the Homestake Tunnel to a point near Eleven Mile
Canyon Reservoir on the upper South Platte River. From this point half will go to Colorado Springs in a 48 inch pipeline over Trout Creek Pass and half will go to Aurora via stream flow down the South Platte. The average annual yield to the two cities is estimated at 74,000 acre-feet of water.

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Governor Love, on October 4, announced two appointments to the Arkansas River Compact Commission. George Reyher of McClave was reappointed and Ernest Hofmeister of Lamar was appointed replacing Hacket Smartt of Lamar. Both will serve a four year term.

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A group of legislators and citizens appeared before the Game, Fish and Parks Commission at its meeting on October 21 and objected to the controversial $5 fee imposed by the Commission for recreation use at Colorado's designated state recreation areas. Most objections centered around the payment of an extra $5 for the second car. Representative George Fentress of Lakewood said the fee discriminated against the people who do not use developed facilities at the areas. Fentress said, "Anyone who wants to throw a line in a reservoir and catch a fish should be able to do so without paying a $5 fee as the State fishing license already pays for this." Jack Chick of Pueblo, representing a Citizen's Committee for Free Parks and Forests, said "Recreation development should be paid for by all citizens and that the money to finance the program should come from the State general fund."

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"Flood control at the mouth of Bijou Creek, a tributary to the South Platte above Fort Morgan, and upstream dams on the Bijou are complementary to each other and are not competitive." This statement was made by Stanley Miller, engineer for the Colorado Water Conservation Board, at a meeting of the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District in Sterling early in September. Miller said, "Diversion of the Bijou into the proposed Narrows Reservoir is the only means of controlling major floods like those of 1935 and 1965, but upstream dams are being studied to control damage along the creek and reduce water volume."

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The United States and Mexico have agreed in principle to explore possibilities of building a nuclear-powered water desalting plant to serve neighboring areas of both countries, which includes Sonora and Baja in Mexico, Baja being in Lower California; Arizona and California
in the United States. Announcement of the agreement was made at the recent International Symposium on desalination of water held in Washington, D.C.

**Thomas H. Wand of Paonia has retired as a director of the North Fork Water Conservancy District after many years of service. George Volk of Ragged Mountain was appointed by Judge Fred Calhoun of Delta to fill the vacancy. Volk will serve until April 19, 1967. The water conservancy district was organized in 1941 by the district court to serve as the administering agency for the Paonia Project.**

**THROUGH THE WATER METER**

**Pueblo City Council** has approved a resolution placing a proposed amendment on the November 2 ballot which would make the water works a department of the municipal government instead of being governed by the present 5-member elective board. The Bureau of Reclamation to date has granted Arkansas Valley ditch companies $273,748 to help repair irrigation systems damaged by the floods of last June. A supplemental allocation of $3.7 million in federal disaster relief funds has been authorized for Colorado to help repair flood damage. This allocation brings the total flood relief funds for Colorado to $19.7 million to date. Water resources research can become a potent force in the growth of the nation's economy according to Dr. Roland R. Renne, director of the U.S. Office of Water Research. Drilling is under way in construction of the Blanco Tunnel, part of the San Juan-Chama water diversion project in northern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado. A group of Denver property owners and business men are organizing to form a "dam the Platte" panel to push the construction of the Chatfield Dam. Aurora and Colorado Springs, co-developers of the $74 million Homestake
Water Diversion Project, plan on spending $4 million to purchase water storage rights in Sugarloaf Reservoir near Leadville, the cost to be divided equally. . . Jones Pass Tunnel which carries diverted water from the Williams Fork drainage into Denver's Moffat Tunnel water system has been renamed the August P. Gumlick Tunnel in honor of Gumlick's 30-year service as a member of the Board. . . The $24 million electric generating plant built by the Colorado-Ute Electric Association at Hayden, Colorado was dedicated on September 23. The coal-fired steam plant has a generating capacity of 150,000-kilowatts. . . We are in for a long winter if predictions by the animals in the Denver City Park Zoo prove correct. The predictions include early fur coats, bugling elk and other signs. . . The Pacific Oil Company of California has filed suit in the U.S. District Court in Denver to force the U.S. Department of the Interior to grant the company patents on 38 oil shale claims on the Western Slope. . . Eight Colorado communities are spending more than $3 million to improve public drinking water supplies, according to a report by the Colorado State Department of Public Health. . . President Johnson has signed a bill to authorize a $1.32 billion federal-state war on water pollution. The new law increases federal authority to set water quality standards. . . Congress has passed a new $55 million assistance program for rural areas to build water supply and sewage systems. The bill awaits the President's signature. . . The Bureau of Reclamation has awarded a $597,170 contract to the Varulco Company of Grand Junction to build the Silt Pumping Plant, a part of the Silt Project near Rifle. . .
Australian scientists say they have developed a cheap process for desalting water... The Indiana Public Service Commission has approved a program designed to provide better water for Bourbon (Indiana that is)... Interest is being generated to push the Bluestone Project on the Colorado River above Grand Junction... City Council of Colorado Springs has approved the construction of a new $10.5 million addition to the municipal power system.

GROUND WATER HEARING DATE CHANGED

GEORGE COLBURN, engineering advisor for the Colorado Ground Water Commission has announced that the hearing on the Kiowa-Bijou ground water basin formerly scheduled at 10:00 AM, October 21 in the REA Building at Fort Morgan has been postponed to November 4. The meeting place will be the same. Colburn said the Ground Water Commission will then hold a meeting on November 5 to develop further action based on the results of the hearing.

In an interview, Donald Hamburg, attorney for the Colorado Water Conservation Board, stated that the purpose of the hearing should be clarified. The hearing, Hamburg said, has been called for the purpose of hearing pros and cons relative to the formation of the Kiowa-Bijou Creek drainages as a designated ground water basin in accordance with the provisions of Senate Bill 367, passed by the last session of the Colorado General Assembly. "If the hearing presents no general opposition and the commission establishes the drainages as a designated ground water basin, district management formation proceedings come later," Hamburg said.