"Competition for water intensifies with the dawning of each day. There is only so much water available, and competition for that water has made it a 'big business' commodity. If we have not already reconciled ourselves to this fact we had better get on with it, because this is just the way it is." (Irrigation Age, February 1967.)

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COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROJECT JOLTED

THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION threw in the towel in its battle with conservation groups by recommending a revised program for development of the Lower Colorado River Basin. The plan, announced by Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall, would scuttle construction of Hualapai and Marble Canyon Dams on the Lower Colorado and the five projects proposed for the State of Colorado. It would delete provisions for studies on water importations into the "bankrupt" Colorado River and would scrap safeguards which Colorado and other upper basin states consider essential for their own water development programs. Provisions which guarantee a minimum supply of 4.4 million acre-feet annually for California out of the Colorado River would also be eliminated. In fact, the proposal includes the Central Arizona Project only and would substitute steam power generation to pump Colorado River water into Central Arizona.

The major features of the bill as proposed by the Administration are:

- Authorization of the Central Arizona Project, including Hooker Dam on the Gila River in New Mexico.
- Provision for the construction of a thermal power plant to pump water into Central Arizona, the plant to be owned and operated by WEST, a group of southwestern private utilities.

- Establishment of criteria to operate dams on the Colorado River.

- Provision for reimbursement of the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund for cost of purchasing power to make up for deficiencies in firm power generated resulting from the filling of Lake Powell.

- Deferral of action on the construction of Hualapai Dam (Bridge Canyon).

- Creation of a National Water Commission to make long-range national water studies.

- Extension of boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park to a point just below Glen Canyon Dam.

The secretary's announcement said the proposed bill would seem to be "an appropriate vehicle" to authorize the construction of the Animas-La Plata and Dolores Projects in northwestern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado. This statement implied that the administration is not recommending the Dallas Creek, West Divide and San Miguel Projects in western Colorado.

This administration proposal was a shock to the Colorado River basin states, as it threw out the window all the work accomplished in unifying a regional approach to their water problems. Senator Kuchel (California) called the proposal "a bewildering intellectual somersault." Rep. Craig Hosmer (California) accused Secretary Udall of gutting the Pacific Southwest Water Plan which was approved by Interior last session (HR 4671).

As to other proposed legislation, Congressman Aspinall (Colorado) will push for H.R. 3300, which has Colorado's support. Senator Kuchel has introduced S. 861 which is similar to Aspinall's bill. Both bills
seek the five projects in Colorado, and they stop the Federal Power Commission from granting the State of Arizona a permit for dam construction at either Marble Canyon or Hualapai.

Senator Hayden (Arizona) and Senator Jackson (Washington) have co-sponsored S. 1004 which implements the administration's proposal.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board, at its regular meeting in Denver on March 8, unanimously adopted a resolution opposing the compromise plan as submitted by Secretary Udall. The Board also re-affirmed its stand supporting Aspinall's bill.

Reports from Washington indicate that Congressman Aspinall and Senators Gordon Allott and Peter Dominick (Colo) will introduce legislation which would extend the boundaries of Grand Canyon National Park to a point just below Glen Canyon Dam and would extend Lake Mead Recreation Area to a point which would include what is now the Grand Canyon National Monument, and would include park lands inundated by the Hualapai Lake.

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Colorado River Basin unity collapsed on March 13 when the House irrigation and reclamation sub-committee began a week-long hearing on new proposals for Colorado River water development projects. The opening gun was fired by Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall who submitted the Administration's proposal.

Rep. Wayne Aspinall (Colo), chairman of the House Interior Committee, subjected Udall to a pointed attack. "I am not about to permit the water
entitlement of my state and other upper basin states to be jeopardized by this project," Aspinall charged. Aspinall's contention was that the Udall plan simply means that the Central Arizona Project would be supplied by upper basin water, not yet put to beneficial use.

Wyoming's Governor, Stan Hathaway, threw a monkey wrench into basin unity by stating that his state would not support any Colorado basin project plan which does not include an authorization of a project to import sufficient water from Northern California into the Colorado River to relieve the basin states of Mexican Treaty water obligations. Hathaway's statement also requested that authorization of the San Miguel, West Divide and Dallas Creek Projects in Colorado be conditioned upon completion of the importation project. In discussing financing, Hathaway stated he preferred to see both Hualapai and Marble Canyon Dams constructed to furnish necessary power.

Rep. Harold T. Johnson (Calif), chairman of the sub-committee, took Secretary Udall to task for administration abandonment of a hydro-electric dam on the Colorado River and for deleting a regional development program. "I want to go on record right now as favoring the construction of Hualapai Dam, which will do no harm to Grand Canyon National Park," Johnson said. California's water attorney, Northcutt Ely, suggested that his state would consider diverting 2.5 million acre-feet of water from northern California into the Colorado River basin if a plan suitable to all basin states can be developed.
Governor John Love, of Colorado, fired a parting shot at the hearing by testifying that Colorado will vigorously oppose the Administration plan. "We are not complaining but we do wish to observe that there are equities and considerations due the State of Colorado which have been largely ignored in the struggle to authorize the Central Arizona Project," Love said. Love based his statement on the premise that the Colorado River system does not produce sufficient water to fulfill the allotments provided by the Colorado River and the Upper Colorado River Basin Compacts.

"Contrary to what was stated to this committee a few days ago, the Administration's proposal does not constitute a basis on which a comprehensive long-range solution to the many, varied and complex water problems of the Basin can be developed and carried forward.

"The proposal advanced by the Secretary is actually a short-fused time bomb," he continued.

"Because of the many concessions we have made, our own internal situation has reached the point where we can go no further.

"Acknowledging that we have accepted a great risk, we nevertheless feel that it is either all or nothing," Love concluded.

Toward the end of the hearing Floyd E. Goss, chief electrical engineer and assistant manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, presented a plan which received wide attention by the sub-committee, Goss' plan calls for a federal partnership with southwest public and private utilities and would feature a combined hydroelectric-pumped
storage project producing about 5 million kilowatts of installed capacity at the Hualapai Dam site. Goss said such a partnership would reduce federal expenditure by more than one-half. Aspinall said the proposal is deserving of the most detailed study by the Interior Department.

At the conclusion of the hearing Rep. Aspinall expressed confidence that he could obtain passage of his bill (H.R. 3300) in the House. He stated, however, that it is his belief that the Senate will pass the Administration proposal which will then require conference action.

Aspinall said his full committee will consider his bill early in April. Legislative strategy will be to push for a delay on Senate action until H.R. 3300 can be acted on in the House.

**BOARD ACCEPTS BLACK SQUIRREL REPORT**

COLORADO GROUND WATER COMMISSION, at its meeting in Denver on February 24, officially approved a report by its engineers on the underground water in the Black Squirrel Basin east of Colorado Springs. The report recommended that the basin be officially declared a "designated ground water basin" under the provisions of S.B. 367, and that the area be considered for the formation of a ground water management district.

In another action the Commission heard a report on the Baca-Powers ground water basin in southeastern Colorado and instructed its secretary to initiate proceedings necessary to designate the area as a "designated ground water basin."

The Commission established criteria on the operation of the permit issued to a Winton Jackson for a well in the Kiowa-Bijou basin. These
criteria state that the well shall pump water from the Fox Hills formation and that no water shall be taken from the alluvium. In order to comply with this order, the driller must seal off the well casing at the point where it enters the Fox Hills. The Commission also set a requirement that the well water must be chemically analyzed from time to time to insure that no alluvium water is being pumped.

MORE WATER BILLS DROP IN THE HOPPER

FIVE MORE WATER BILLS have been introduced in the Colorado Legislature since publication of the March 3 supplement of the Newsletter:

House Bill 1536 by Representative Quinlan

Would provide for the creation of water conservancy district to be called "Rio Grande Water Conservation District" to include the area located within the Rio Grande River Basin in Colorado. The bill would provide for water conservation, recreation and other purposes; and would provide for the government of said district, and for the operation of special assessment districts for said purposes within the district.

House Bill 1546 by Representative Quinlan

Would provide that it is hereby found, determined, and declared that it is now and has always been the law and practice in the State of Colorado that all waters lying under, flowing into, or flowing out of this state but not tributary to, or supporting a part of any surface stream, were and are subject to the same customs, rights and ownership as the waters of surface streams.

Would provide that the relative priorities and other rights associated with diversion and application to beneficial use of such non-tributary ground waters may be evidenced and shall be administered in the same manner as other rights.

Would provide that junior rights may not be curtailed in their use in any case in which the water therefor shall be derived from an aquifer whose rate of annual recharge is less than 20 percent of the total volume of water recoverable therefrom as found by the state engineer from the best evidence available to him.
Senate Bills 394, 395 and 396 by Senator Birmingham

These bills are a part of the program developed by the State Coordinator of Natural Resources and the Colorado Water Conservation Board to overhaul the water laws of Colorado. The bills were written by Denver attorney Glenn Saunders and Raphael Moses, attorney for the Water Conservation Board, with the cooperation of the Colorado Bar Association and a committee of water engineers.

Senate Bill 394 calls for the drafting of comprehensive water legislation over the next two years. The bill is designed to protect existing off-stream wells and adjudication of the rights to their use.

Senate Bill 395 provides for a water court to hear the water matters brought in all of the state's district courts. The water judges would go on circuit to the site of the various local district courts to hear pending water matters and would expedite the judicial process in water matters throughout the state.

Senate Bill 396 would provide immediate means for integrating the administration of ground and decreed surface water in the office of the state engineer. It would provide an immediate and constitutional means for ground water to be supplied to senior surface decrees at the cost of those to be benefited and without injury to existing users. The bill also provides for use of water by irrigation districts, conservation districts and other combinations of water users to accomplish the utilization of transient underground storage where large scale movement of water is involved.

WATERGRAM

- Expect the City of La Junta to increase sewer charges. The funds would be used to modernize its sewer system and disposal plant. It is estimated that the project will cost $657,000.

- Expect the Colorado Pollution Control Commission regulations to require all uranium mill and other mine operations to level out their mill tailing piles and cover them with top soil to facilitate plant growth.

- There is a possibility that Pueblo may consider merging its sewer and sanitation service with the Municipal Water Department.

- Expect continued opposition by conservationist groups and basin-wide disunity to make the passage of a satisfactory Colorado River Basin Project authorization bill extremely difficult.
ITEMS IN BRIEF

Voters of Pueblo by a two to one margin turned down a proposed $2 sewer fee which would have been used to provide federal matching funds to improve the city's sewage disposal system designed to meet demands of the State Pollution Control Commission. The Commission, which has jurisdiction over federal funds for such projects, has not withdrawn Pueblo's $130,000 federal grant which will give the city additional time to seek other sources of matching monies.

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Representative Wayne Aspinall, chairman of the House Interior Committee, gave his approval to a bill which would construct a giant nuclear-powered desalinization plant proposed for southern California. The Office of Saline Water has requested the federal government to lend assistance in the amount of $57.2 million for the proposed $444 million project. The bill has been approved by the Senate.

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David Crandall, regional director of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Salt Lake City, reports that the huge electrical transmission system inter-tie recently put in operation by the Bureau has proved that the nation's electrical system can be synchronized and operated in the best public interest by the elimination of black-outs and power shortages.

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R. P. (Bob) Marean, chief of power operations for the Bureau of Reclamation, was elected chairman of the newly formed Western Operations Committee at a recent meeting of the group in Salt Lake City. The purpose of the organization will be to promote cooperative action and resolve power interconnection problems. Membership includes all private and public electric utilities in the states of Colorado, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and parts of Nebraska, New Mexico and Texas and British Columbia in Canada.

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City of Pueblo has signed a $33,500 contract with Simon F. Elliot, consulting engineer, to make a study of the city's water supply, storage and purification requirements. This study will give major consideration to Pueblo's plans and facilities necessary for the utilization of water to come from the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. This phase of the project which includes piping, filtration and water softening processes will be the responsibility of the city.

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City council of Montrose has set April 11 as the date for the special election on a bond issue for a $1,705,000 water improvement program.

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An application by the Rocky Mountain Power Company of Denver for a license to build a $129 million hydroelectric power-generation complex on the upper South Fork of the White River and on Sweetwater Creek has been dismissed by the Federal Power Commission. The Commission ruled that the company did not show financial feasibility for the plant or a market for the power.

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Representative Don Brotzman (Colo) is urging the Army Corps of Engineers to expedite studies of flood control projects on the South Platte River. These would include Bear Creek, Sand Creek, Bijou Creeks, Toll Gate Creek and Little Dry Creek. Brotzman asked that the over-all South Platte study be completed by 1970.

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At the request of Governor Love, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has authorized about 1,230 ranchers to graze livestock on lands normally withheld for soil conservation purposes (soil-bank). The lands involved are located in Kiowa, Bent, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Prowers, Pueblo and Crowley Counties, all of which have suffered extremely low precipitation during this past winter.

THROUGH THE WATER METER

Town of Hotchkiss voters, by a large majority, gave approval to the formation of a sanitation district. The city plans a bond issue for sewage disposal facilities estimated to cost $200,000 . . . Rep. Donald Brotzman (Colo) announced he will introduce legislation giving small business a tax credit for doing work to minimize air and water pollution . . . Canyon City has signed an agreement with Meline and Ireland of Fort Collins for a study of improvements to water treatment facilities . . . E. T. Bryant, Herman Porterfield and Florence Pauly,
officers of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District, were re-elected at the annual meeting of district landowners ... Game, Fish and Parks purchased considerable acreage north of Weston for wild turkey range ... Mandatory installation of water meters is the new policy adopted by Pueblo City Council ... Woods and Son Drilling Company brought in a well on the Chris Dunivan, Jr. farm near Springfield that may rate 3,000 to 4,000 gallons of water per minute ... Members of the Grand Valley Water Users Association unanimously rejected a proposal against being included in a proposed recreation district ... Colorado State University Research Foundation announced the receipt of a $45,000 Bureau of Land Management grant for a study of floods and run-off from small watersheds in the western United States ... Senator Frank Moss (Utah) is continuing to press for an immediate start on the proposed $100 billion project to divert water from Alaska to water thirsty areas of western United States ... U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has put a complete water laboratory on wheels and will roll it into battle as a part of Interior's war on water pollution ... Pueblo property owners vigorously opposed the creation of floodplain zoning along the Fountain River which would impose rigid controls on new uses in the area ... To date five western slope water conservancy districts have raised a total of $20,000, and another $5,000 will probably be added, toward a fund for promotion of the five projects proposed to be included in the Colorado River Basin Project bill ... U.S. Forest Service has initiated a long-range inventory of its water needs and water yields from forest areas ...
Rep. Don Brotzman (Colo) requested the Army Corps of Engineers to study if sand and gravel can be removed from the Chatfield Reservoir area during and after construction . . . Corps of Engineers at Omaha has completed its report recommending construction of the Mount Carbon flood control dam on Bear Creek above Denver . . . The Federal aid program, started ten years ago to spur construction of municipal water pollution control facilities, has resulted in the construction of approximately $4 billion worth of waste treatment plants across the nation. (Conservation News, February 15, 1967) . . . California's 1967-68 budget includes $369 million for water development projects . . . U.S. Corps of Engineers, armed with a U.S. Supreme Court decree has joined the battle against water pollution . . . Rep. Wayne Aspinall, chairman of the House Interior Committee, is insisting that the government get out of the desalinization business and turn it over to private enterprise . . . Game, Fish and Parks established April 1, 1967 as the cut-off date for applications for Land and Water Conservation Fund Act monies to be used to finance local outdoor recreational development . . . Colorado State University is offering a new program in irrigation engineering training during the coming summer. For information write Dr. Norman A. Evans, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521.