It is axiomatic in the West that growth means water, and without water there can be no growth... We must not only devise ways to re-use our water and otherwise economize on water use, but we must boldly seek out new sources of water." (Senator Gordon Allott (Colorado), Denver, Colorado, February 17, 1971)

RECLAMATION IS IN TROUBLE, SAYS ALLOTT

U.S. Sen. Gordon Allott of Colorado told more than a hundred delegates to the 1971 annual meeting of the Colorado Water Congress in Denver on February 17 "the Reclamation Program is in trouble, and the time has come for us to take a hard and realistic look at the program, where it is headed, and what we can expect in the future."

Allott disclosed that federal appropriations for national water development during the last two years have dropped below the last ten-year average. The 1970 appropriation was only $176 million and it is estimated that the 1971 appropriation will not exceed $213 million. The problem is further compounded by applying the rise in the cost index to these figures which would reduce a $213 million appropriation to $121 million of actual construction as compared to the 1949 to 1951 cost index.

"If reclamation falls off the priority list or comes to rest at a level too far down on the list, it is up to the people of the various reclamation states to see to it that reclamation's position on the list of national priorities is set right; and the time to start is now -- before the new list of priorities is established. If we wait until after the national dialogue is ended, it will be too late," Allott said.
Allott called upon the Water Congress to become active participants in the dialogue and tell the story of reclamation in a "no nonsense" fashion. He urged the water interests to take their case to the American people to show them the need for an adequate supply of clean water to take care of their life needs and to properly provide for increasing needs as a result of increasing population.

"To tell the reclamation story in a 'no nonsense' fashion may require us to reorient our thinking. We will have to take a look at reclamation as it relates to the 1971 decade instead of the way we did in 1902, when the program was first initiated," Allott said. He urged a program informing the populous areas of the eastern states as to the tremendous importance of western water and power development in preventing power blackouts throughout the East. "Do you suppose that the average New Yorker knows that his air conditioner or his heating plant continued to operate because dams on the Colorado River were able to produce some surplus power?"

"I reiterate, reclamation is a 'people program', and your challenge is to help the people understand that."

In summary, Allott said, the challenge is to tell the reclamation story in realistic, 1971 terms with a visionary eye to the future. "Don't be afraid to think big, and if we fail to do so we not only do the West a disservice but we also do a disservice to the nation as a whole."

Carl Bronn, executive director of the National Water Resources Association, spoke to the delegates on the same theme. He emphasized that land and water care is the thinking man's environment. He pointed to these advantages in water development: More jobs, healthful recreation, enterprises, tax resources, food and power production, and more game and fish; better quality of water, use of land, distribution of people, control of floods and droughts, energy backup, and management of waste; stronger flow of money from hydroenergy, sale of water, use of unlocked resources, stabilized communities and the avoidance of disasters.

In defending the environmental benefits provided by water projects, Bronn pointed out that 15 million people in the United States depend — in their homes — upon water from reclamation projects, and in addition
more than 100 communities depend upon projects built by the Corps of Engineers. In addition to this, billions of dollars in property investments are protected by the flood control aspects of these projects.

Bronn summarized by saying the primary purposes of the completed reclamation projects were to open new options for the people -- to get more and better food, to save lives, property and time, to strengthen the United States by delivering cheaper energy, and to provide power for a better living.

James L. Ogilvie, manager of the Denver Water Board, told the group: "All of us must do a better job of protecting existing water sources from pollution. Control of pollution is probably the best single available method we have for developing our present water resources. We must and we will continue to improve our treatment techniques so that eventually we will have treatment plants where we can recycle their effluent into the water supply system. We are also studying the possibility of a dual-system where effluent can be used for lawns and industrial purposes."

Providing for the water needs of metropolitan Denver and at the same time protecting our environment is a challenge that we in the Denver Water Department willingly accept. It is a difficult job but one we are convinced can and will be accomplished, Ogilvie concluded.

Robert Evans, project manager of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, outlined the Bureau of Reclamation's program for environmental protection and development on lands involved in the Pueblo Reservoir, a phase of the project. Evans disclosed that lands included in the area will be environmentally restored and facilities will be installed to accommodate one million recreational visitors annually.

Stanley Dempsey, attorney for the Climax Molybdenum Co., pledged an all-out effort by the company toward environmental protection in the construction and operation of a molybdenum processing mill to be located in Ute Park on Williams Fork above Parshall, Colorado. He said these plans are the results of many conferences with state and federal environmental agencies and with concerned citizens groups.

Sen. Fred Anderson, chairman of the Senate Water Committee, outlined the activities of the 1971 session of the General Assembly in passage of corrective legislation to Senate Bill 81. He advised that Senate Bills 16 and 19 have passed both the House and the Senate. These bills extend the republication date on tabulations to October 10, 1973 and clarify the relative priorities of decrees awarded by water judges by providing that the filing date of the application for a water right will be the priority date, and extend the deadline for adjudication of wells to July 1, 1972.

Anderson also supported legislation designed to create a water project fund for state participation in water project construction. "We should at least authorize a fund and appropriate a little money to get the idea started," Anderson said. "If we wait too long, it may be too late."

Dr. Richard Beidelman, chairman of the Biology Department at Colorado College, delivered a punch-line address with slides portraying the environmental damage throughout the nation which he contended was caused by poorly
planned and poorly constructed water projects. He urged water interests to participate more actively in incorporating environmental protection in future water development plans.

Felix L. Sparks, director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, gave a status and consequence report on the lawsuit lodged in the Federal District Court in Washington, D.C. which would enjoin the Secretary of the Interior against filling Lake Powell beyond the boundary line of Rainbow Bridge National Monument. The suit was filed by Friends of the Earth, headed by Dave Brower, and others. "The lawsuit, if successful, would have disastrous consequences on water utilization in Colorado and the Upper Colorado River Basin states," Sparks said. He disclosed that such a situation would deprive Colorado of 800,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water annually and would require Lake Powell to be drained nearly dry most of the time to provide flood water protection against encroachment of the reservoir water within the Monument boundary. Sparks also said the construction of a protection dam in the mouth of Bridge Creek as demanded by the plaintiffs would do far more damage to the environment than the encroaching water level. He pointed out that Lake Powell when full would not encroach upon or inundate the bridge itself. "In fact the uppermost level of the lake would be about thirty feet below the base of the bridge abutments."

Sparks warned that if the lawsuit is successful, firm power production at Glen Canyon Dam would be virtually destroyed which would have a destructive impact on future project construction and operation of the Colorado water projects authorized in the Colorado River Project Acts. He also warned that the future of existing and planned water diversion projects by the city of Denver and Colorado Springs, the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project and perhaps the Colorado Big Thompson Project could be adversely affected.

Sparks disclosed that a resolution will be introduced for consideration by the 1971 General Assembly deploring the adverse consequences to the interests of Colorado and the other Upper Colorado River Basin states if such a suit is successful. He said the Upper Basin states have two options: To intervene in the suit, or to wait and sue the United States in the U.S. Supreme Court demanding that Glen Canyon Dam be operated as provided for in the Colorado River Storage Project Act. The Act specifically provides for such a suit. These questions will be considered by the Upper Colorado River Commission when it meets in Salt Lake City on February 27, Sparks said.

These resolutions were adopted by the Water Congress:

- Urges the legislative and executive branches of the Federal Government to base their national spending priorities on the already demonstrated value of investing in water development projects.

- Directs the Executive Committee and officers of the Colorado Water Congress to support before the Colorado General Assembly, legislative proposals to establish a revolving fund and to empower the Colorado Water Conservation Board to manage that fund to assist in the development of Colorado water resources.
- Opposes the principles of House Bill 1009 introduced in the 1971 session which provides that in the case of applications for a water right which will require construction of a well, the application shall be accompanied by a permit to construct the well.

Opponents to the bill maintain that it is unconstitutional and could deny a right to appropriate as granted by the Constitution.

- Urges the National Water Resources Association to provide for special classes of committee membership to assume vigorous leadership in helping to mold federal water policy to recognize the special water needs of municipalities and industries.

- Directs the Executive Committees and officers of the Colorado Water Congress, on behalf of the water users of Colorado, to participate fully at all levels in any agency determinations concerning the designation of wilderness areas.

- Creates an Environmental Task Force in the Water Congress to implement a program which will inform the general public fully and fairly about environmental problems associated with the use of the state's water.

- Urges creation of a "Rainbow Bridge Workshop" in the Water Congress through which the general public can be made aware of the truth about the controversies affecting the Colorado River and the Rainbow Bridge and about the vital stake every Colorado citizen and every American has in the full multipurpose use, especially recreation, of the Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell.

These officers were elected to serve the Colorado Water Congress during the ensuing year: Roland Fischer, Glenwood Springs, chairman; Charles Thomson, Pueblo, vice-chairman; Frederick V. Kroeger, Durango, secretary-treasurer; J. R. Barkley, Loveland, NWRA director; Jack Ross, Littleton, NWRA Resolutions Committee; John Sayre, Boulder, alternate, NWRA Resolutions Committee.

Executive Committee members elected include: Kenneth Balcomb, Glenwood Springs; Clarence Burr, Walden; L. Richard Bratton, Gunnison; Frank S. Maynes, Durango; Quincy Cornelius, Hooper; Ralph Adkins, Pueblo; J. R. Barkley, Loveland; and R. W. Fischer, Denver.

NATIONAL LAND USE POLICY ACT INTRODUCED

A BILL to provide for a National Land Use Policy by broadening the authority of the Water Resources Council and river basin commissions and by providing financial assistance for statewide land use planning has been introduced in the United States Senate. This bill was introduced in 1970 by Senator Jackson of Washington and referred to the Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs where it was completely rewritten and referred to the Senate floor with a recommendation for its passage.

Last minute delays caused by the pressure of pending legislation prevented any action in 1970. Reports from Washington, however, indicate that the bill will be reintroduced with Senator Gordon Allott of Colorado and twenty-two other senators as cosponsors.

According to the committee report, the Bill (S. 3354) expresses a national commitment to comprehensive land use planning and management and would establish a national framework for land use planning and regulation. The framework is designed to afford maximum discretion to state and local governments consistent with Constitutionally and Congressionally recognized national interests. The bill aims at close coordination of Federal, State, and local planning efforts to avoid overlaps and conflicts.

Major provisions of the bill are noted:

- The Water Resources Planning Act is amended to include land use as a national policy and reorganize the National Water Resources Council by adding the Vice President, the Secretary of Commerce and Transportation, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency as members. It directs the Council to prepare an inventory of national land planning and to establish guidelines for land use planning, and to create a Federal Planning Information Center to maintain a record and file of approved statewide land use plans, of federally initiated and federally assisted plans for activities which directly affect or involve land use and other related information.

- An appropriation of $16 million annually for administration of the Act and $100 million annually for grants-in-aid to states, river basin commissions and interstate agencies to carry out the purpose of the Act is authorized. To participate in these funds a state must create a single agency which has statewide land use planning responsibilities and which meets the guidelines and requirements as established. The state agency is to prepare an inventory of the state's land and related resources, compile and analyze information related to population, economics, public works, ecology, projected and use, interstate governmental organizations, and other information necessary to conduct statewide land use planning.

The council is authorized to make state land use planning grants to agencies in any amount not to exceed 90 percent of the estimated cost of the planning for the five full fiscal years after the initial publication of implementing regulations by the council. Thereafter grants may not exceed two-thirds of the state agency's planning and operating costs.
- The state must meet or give assurance that its land use planning is under the jurisdiction of one agency and that it has a competent and adequate interdisciplinary professional and technical staff.

- Participating states would have a period of five years following the issuance of rules and regulations by the Land and Water Resources Council to develop a statewide land use plan. To retain eligibility for planning grants after the end of this period the state must have submitted a statewide land use plan approved by the Land and Water Resources Council and must have the authority to implement the approved plan and enforce its provisions. Water resources are included as a part of land use planning.

- Any federal agency is prohibited from proposing or undertaking any new action or from financially supporting any new state administered action which might have a substantial adverse environmental impact or which would tend to commit substantial land or water resources in any state which has not submitted a land use plan within five years after the beginning of the planning assistance program established by the legislation.

- Municipalities having a population in excess of 250,000 or in excess of 20 percent of the state's total population which have land use planning and regulation authority are exempt from the provisions of the Act at the discretion of the state agency.

- Federal or state jurisdiction, responsibility, or rights in the field of land and water resources planning, development, or control shall not be expanded or diminished under the provisions of the bill.

* * *

Colorado State Senator Joseph P. Schieffelin (Lakewood) has introduced three bills in the Senate (91, 92 and 93) which would empower the Colorado Land Use Commission to develop and operate a statewide land use plan, amend the law relative to planning of subdivisions, and provide funds to facilitate land use planning. The proposal would authorize the commission to set guidelines for land use and empower it to seek an injunction in the court when these guidelines are violated. The order of the court would be subject to appellate review.

The commission is directed to adopt an interim land use plan not later than July 1, 1972 and to adopt a final plan not later than July 1, 1973.

COMING EVENTS

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD, March 10, 1971, 10:00 AM, Quality Motel, 1840 Sherman, Denver, Colorado.

COLORADO WATER CONGRESS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, March 9, 1971, 2:00 PM, Denver, Colorado, Penthouse, 1200 Lincoln, Denver.