REPORT TO COMMITTEE

First, the Committee has to admit that increased use of water in Colorado has created problems. There has to be a reduction in the economy in the Arkansas Valley.

Second, Colorado wants more water for recreation (Great Plains) with 20% efficiency and 80% loss.

Colorado wants water to protect the pumps.

Third, more water is required for the losses Kansas has required to keep the Compact whole.

I may be old fashioned, but you can't have things both ways.

If Colorado pumpers are required to make complete augmentation which will have to be done to protect the Priority System in Colorado, there has to be reduction in use of water in Colorado.

As the augmentation of water in Colorado comes into place the so-called transmountain return flows will be taken from the river. Seems as these flows have masked the actual losses that could have occurred to the state of Kansas.

With the withdrawal of these return flows used for augmentation by the cities in the Arkansas Valley and the Fountain Valley, the burden will increase to keep compact whole.

With Colorado setting the use of well consumption at 75% in the court in California or the Master using the 75% figure, we got problems.

With 23 years of the river flows at Pueblo below the average of 450,887 AF for 42 years and 1957 at 984,470 AF, 1965 at 738,900 AF, 1984 at 923,770 AF, 1983 at 679,800 AF, 1987 at 730,200 AF, averages look backwards.

Colorado use of ground water is and has created problems, at whose expense should the solution come from?

It is my opinion water is legally diverted on a daily basis. There cannot be averages without grave harm to senior decreed water rights in dry years.

The thing the Master has said the use of ground water has in his findings violated Article IV of the Compact.

The one thing that is very apparent is from the lawsuit there ain't anybody smart enough to predict what will happen for the next 50 years. I banked with H. B. Mendenhall from 1928 till his death in the sixties. Those men were the most knowledgeable of the time. They could not foresee the development of huge pumping at the time.
So don't kid yourself, we are not any more far seeing than those able men.

Times change without your permission regardless.

I do know common sense and politics are coincidental. If we are to have a lasting peace in the water business it is my belief the answer is based on honesty and dealing with the facts. Mistakes have been made by the legislators, the courts and the administering of water in Colorado.

The question to me is, do we do what's right to protect the Priority System in Colorado?

There is simply not enough water for:
  Increase in Recreation
  Buy water for Pumps
  Deliver more water to Kansas

The augmentation water for pumps will not come from transmountain return flow at very best a short time.

Has the time come to take agriculture water, from gravity flow to pumps? At what price? Where has the Priority System gone to a whole in the ground?

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