July 2, 1964

Bob,

I had no intention whatever of trying to justify the Fryingpan-Arkansas project. My object was to try to convince the people of the Fryingpan Valley that the Colorado River Water Conservation District proposed building Ruefi to put water to use in western Colorado. Because it is now associated with the transmountain water diversion project, many there have the idea Ruefi is solely a nefarious scheme of the bureau.

I have found that few people really understand the sections of the constitution regarding water. I thought if they understood the constitution provisions they might have a better grasp of the obstacles the river district faces in fighting transmountain projects. I thought you were the best person to make this explanation. They would discount what anyone else said.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board gave Basalt No. 1 priority for investigations after present studies are completed. There is little else that can be done for the moment. When the studies start, the river district and the Basalt District can slide and prod the bureau.

On the land acquisition and zoning problem, I think that is a local problem. I know that any person from Grand Junction who speaks on zoning is suspect. The rural people want no part of Grand Junction trying to tell them where to put their outhouses. I know from experience in community service efforts on zoning.

I have so much to do as a volunteer non-paid water man that I think I'll stick to water and leave the zoning, road site, and related matters to others.

Bill

WILLIAM H. NESON