IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver -- Senator Richard M. Nixon, Republican candidate for vice-president, expressed his position on problems affecting the Colorado River, in a letter received here by United States Senator Eugene D. Millikin of Colorado.

Nixon wrote:

UNITED STATES SENATE

October 7, 1952

The Honorable Eugene D. Millikin,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear 'Gene: In response to your request for a statement regarding my attitude toward the water problems affecting the Colorado River, the following represents my viewpoint.

In all of the seven states which comprise the Colorado River Basin there is an ever increasing demand for more water for cities and towns, for irrigated agriculture, for industry, for mineral production and for the generation of hydro-electric power.

This great need of all the basin states for Colorado River water has resulted in compacts, contracts, statutes, and treaties relating to right to the use of the water of that stream. These various instruments constitute what is known as the law of the river. Their integrity must be maintained. The differences as to the meaning and effect of these instruments must be settled by amicable negotiation among the affected states, or by litigation in the Supreme Court of the United States.
Because of the mountainous terrain traversed by the Colorado River, future water development projects for the use of the waters of the stream are of tremendous size and scope. Federal aid in their construction will be required and should be given to those which are sound and wise. At the same time the national government should recognize the desirability, so far as feasible, of local control over water uses.

Within the framework of the compacts, contracts, statutes and treaties, the development of the Colorado River must go forward to strengthen the nation. Every effort should be made to put to use the waters of this great stream at the earliest practicable date.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

(s) Dick

Richard Nixon