My name is Quigg Newton. I am the Mayor of the City and County of Denver, Colorado. Denver owns and operates its own Municipal Water System upon which over 600,000 people are totally dependent for their water supply. Of that total about 485,000 people reside within its city limits and the additional 115,000 reside in adjacent suburban areas. The population served by Denver's system has grown over 20% in the last five years; it has fully doubled since 1930.

At the present time Denver gets about 2/3 of the water it uses from the South Platte River. It has not been able to make any substantial increase in the amount of water it gets from that source for the last 15 years because all of the waters of the South Platte have been completely developed for the use of the 825,000 people dependent on it for domestic, agricultural and industrial water. Denver gets the remaining 1/3 of its present supply through transmountain tunnels from small tributaries of the Colorado River, such as Fraser and Williams Fork. Denver's total water plant investment is fully $75,000,000, of which more than one half represents reservoirs, tunnels and canals for the diversion and storage of raw water.

Denver has less water than it needs right now. In part, the reason is severe drought for the past two years. In part, the shortage comes from our rapid rate of growth. By extension and complete development of its Fraser and Williams Fork collection systems -- on which work is presently being pressed -- Denver can increase its water supply enough to take care of an urbanized area.
of just about 800,000 inhabitants. We will have that number within the next eight years unless within that time regional population trends change radically.

To support our growth beyond that point we have no practicable source of supply other than the Blue River, which is one of the tributaries of the Colorado River within our own state.

Denver has made an appropriation of water from the Blue River and our engineers have designed a tunnel 23 miles in length and two large reservoirs to catch this water during flood periods of the year and bring it into our water system. These three structures are the things called the "Blue River Project" in Section 11 of House Bills 2836, 270 and 4488 presently before this Committee. Denver has spent to date on this project over $1,000,000. This has covered detailed plans, rights-of-way, and geological tests and studies. The tunnel part of the project, which will take fully eight years to complete, is under construction and has been driven over a mile and a half.

The completed project will cost over $75,000,000, which Denver now expects to finance without federal contribution. That project is designed to yield in average years, when fully complete, about 175,000 acre feet of water per year. That amount of water added to our present sources will supply Denver in a continued growth to about 1,600,000 people. We believe that point may be reached in the next 25 to 40 years.

To make that growth possible and even to protect the number of people who will assuredly be dependent upon our water supply within the next ten years, Denver needs the enactment by the Congress of the provisions embodied in Section 11 of Senate Bill 500 and House Bills 2836, 270 and 4488. The reason we need this legislation is very simple. The date of Denver's Blue River water appropriation has now been finally established by our Supreme Court as June 24, 1946.
That is a date several years junior to the priority date to which the United States is entitled for its Green Mountain Reservoir and power plant located on the Blue River some 35 miles down stream from the intake point for Denver's tunnel.

That United States power plant is big enough to take all the water of the Blue River, including what Denver needs for continued growth. Denver believes that under the terms of the Colorado River Compact and of the Boulder Canon Project Act, which followed the Compact, the use by the United States of this Blue River water whenever that use is solely for generation of electrical power is subservient to Denver's taking of water for municipal uses and cannot interfere with or prevent diversion of water by Denver, even though Denver's priority date is junior to that of the United States. Final decision of that legal point may take years and no matter how it is decided the need of administrative power clearly to solve all possible problems of conflict will still exist. The United States still owns much of the land on which Denver needs to build the two reservoirs for its Blue River Project, and at one of these sites the United States has withdrawn the land as a federal power site. Direct authority in the executive branch of the government to sell, for value, the required areas is needed to facilitate the project. Applications for acquisition of some vital items have been pending for many years under the usual routines of permits and land exchanges.

If Denver is to take any flood water from the Blue River and if concurrently the United States is to make maximum lawful use of its Reservoir and power plant, it is very necessary that there be express power in the appropriate agencies of the United States to negotiate with Denver's engineers a workable modus for operation of both projects with minimum interference, including, if that be necessary, relinquishment by the United States of some water which would otherwise be used solely to generate power. Section 11 makes such negotiation possible. Denver needs it.
I want to make it very clear that in asking legislation to facilitate this adjustment of federal power uses to Denver's municipal needs, Denver is not seeking, and under Section 11 would not get, any right to interfere with the operation of the Colorado-Big Thompson project at its maximum agricultural and municipal possibilities. Neither is Denver asking to impair in any way the efficient functioning of Green Mountain Reservoir as a supplement to the water rights of other users in Western Colorado for agricultural or municipal purposes.

There are many water rights in Colorado on the Colorado River System long senior both to Denver's Blue appropriation and to Green Mountain Reservoir. These must continue to be recognized both by the United States and by Denver. We ask no change in that.

Green Mountain Reservoir has two primary storage functions aside from any utility for generating electricity. One is to catch and store replacement water for the Colorado-Big Thompson project. About one-third the capacity of Green Mountain Reservoir accomplishes this purpose, even under extreme conditions. We seek no right to interfere with that. Green Mountain Reservoir also acts as a supplement to the water supply of the group of canals that serve the Grand Junction area. 1954 was a very dry year. Much less than one-third the capacity of Green Mountain Reservoir proved adequate to give those canals the water they needed for agricultural and municipal purposes even in that drought year. We seek no right to interfere with the continuation of that practice.

What we do ask is to be able to negotiate with the United States for the reservoir sites we need and for an operating modus governing our respective projects, which may involve relinquishment by the United States of some of its power water. That power water yields the United States only about $1.35 per acre foot. Denver expects the cost of development of water for its vital municipal purposes to be so great that every acre foot it gets from the Blue will represent over twenty dollars.
Denver feels a strong sense of obligation to be able to continue its service of water to the many Federal installations dependent on its water system in the Denver area. Requirements arising from Federal installations alone require about a fifth of the total capacity of the Denver water system.

The Denver area represents nearly half the total population of Colorado. Denver needs water from the winter snows of Western Colorado for its continued development.

This involves what is commonly called transmountain diversion. Such a diversion is perfectly lawful. It is the same sort of lawful diversion by which Los Angeles, at a considerable distance from the Colorado River, receives over 4,000,000 acre feet of Colorado River water per year, as shown in the Senate hearings on this legislation.

Denver is not as large as Los Angeles, but it is second only to Los Angeles in size among the cities dependent upon the Colorado River. Denver asks the chance to complete, at its own expense, a project which when fully developed and operated at capacity will not divert more than 180,000 acre feet of Colorado River water in any year.

The inclusion of Denver's Blue River project in this legislation was expressly approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board in resolutions adopted January 14, 1954. That Board is the official policy making body of Colorado in all water matters. That support has never been withdrawn or modified.