"Seldom in the history of reclamation has any group of people such as those in the Arkansas Valley demonstrated more convincing faith in the necessity of a reclamation project. In addition to years of untiring efforts, the people of Colorado have to date expended over $700,000 in bringing this project to its present state, the greatest portion of this sum originating within the Valley proper." (Felix L. Sparks, 1961)
Representative Wayne Aspinall, chairman of the powerful House Interior Committee has quarterbacked the Fry-Ark's pre-battle campaign. He will lead the fight for the bill on the House floor. Aspinall is aided by congressmen Chenoweth, Dominick and Rogers. A special task force consisting of Larry Sparks, Leonard Kuiper, Charles Bousted, Ival Goslin and Bill Amlong is aiding Colorado's congressional delegation. Col. Sparks, director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, is on leave of absence from a National Guard unit at Ft. Sill, Okla., where he is commanding officer. Kuiper is acting director of CWCB. Bousted is manager of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Goslin is secretary-engineer of the Upper Colorado River Commission. Amlong is former assistant to Cal Snyder, director of the National Retail Federation in Washington, D.C. Snyder formerly was director of the Denver Chamber of Commerce, where he was a key member of the team which successfully put the Upper Colorado storage project bill through the House in 1956.

Many other Coloradans are actively helping the Fry-Ark fight its way through Washington's legislative jungle. Gov. McNichols has written to governors and congressmen in behalf of the project. A citizens' letter writing campaign organized in the Arkansas Valley is being coordinated by the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce. Help in this letter writing effort has been obtained from other parts of the state through all-out efforts by the Colorado Chamber of Commerce.
Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District board members who have been in Washington working for passage of the Fryingpan bill include Selby Young (president) and J. Sidney Nichols of Colorado Springs, Roy Cooper and Kenneth Shaw of Las Animas, James Shoun and Frank Dilly of Canon City and Harold Christy of Pueblo. Also working in Washington for the Fry-Ark bill: SEWCD's counsel, Charles Beise and Charles Mathison. Harold Christy's resolution urging immediate approval of both the Fryingpan and Navajo-San Juan-Chama bills was adopted by 500 delegates to the National Rivers and Harbors Congress meeting in Washington.

Bipartisan help for the Fryingpan is coming from all sections of Colorado. Howard Yates, Colorado C of C manager, has written to all members of the Illinois and New York delegations, where he has contacts. Colorado chairmen of both political parties have been in touch with key members of their respective parties in other states, with encouraging results. A group of 19 Colorado women will campaign for Fry-Ark votes in Washington during the National Conference of Democratic Women. Each Colorado delegate has been briefed on the project. Pueblo County GOP resolution favoring the Fryingpan will be sent to all Republican members of Congress. When the Fry-Ark bill comes up, there is expected to be an organized march on Washington by influential citizens from every part of the Arkansas Valley.
Fry-Ark's chances were greatly improved by passage of New Mexico's Navajo-San Juan-Chama authorization bill on the House floor by voice vote on May 23. Other favorable indications include the recent signing of power contracts that ended the red-hot public v. private power battle that has split upper basin water unity during the past 18 months. Southern California appears to have withdrawn its opposition to the Fry-Ark. However, it still seeks a limitation on transmountain diversions. The administration is pushing hard for Fry-Ark authorization. Still, Fry-Ark passage is far from assured. Some disinterested outsiders, such as Engineer-News Record magazine, label Fry-Ark's chances "Not good."

Fryingpanners will go all-out during the final days leading up to the June 12 vote. They will sponsor a series of luncheons, beginning May 29, at which Colorado's congressional members and other prominent Coloradans will explain the project to their guests. Lobby group contacts will be stepped up. All of Colorado's congressional power will be operating at maximum effort. This is going to be another real life drama, brought on-stage by western water problems.

WILDERNESS BILL hearings before a House Interior subcommittee have been completed. John B. Barnard, Jr., Denver attorney, testified in behalf of your Colorado Water Congress. Barnard presented a Water Congress resolution which called for inclusion of amendments to protect water interests.
Gov. McNichols proposed amendments to the Wilderness Bill which would require affirmative action by Congress in designating specific wilderness areas, approval by governors of the affected states prior to designation of wilderness area, consideration of water project development in wilderness areas, and encouragement of hunting and fishing in wilderness areas with each state being allowed to manage the game and fish resources within its borders.

Passage of wilderness legislation is anticipated during this session of Congress. The administration is behind it. It has passed the Senate. The House Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands has held extensive field hearings (1,050 pages of testimony) in addition to the recent hearings in Washington. It is expected to call up the Wilderness Bill before the full House Interior Committee early in June. The Wilderness Bill finally approved by the House is expected to bear little resemblance to proposals made by ardent proponents during the past few years.

The Wilderness Bill in its present form would immediately incorporate five national forest wild areas in Colorado into the wilderness preservation system. These areas, totaling 257,477 acres, are: Maroon Bells--Snowmass (White River National Forest), Mt. Zirkel--Dome Peak (Routt), Rawah (Roosevelt), West Elk (Gunnison), La Garita (Rio Grande and Gunnison). Six national forest primitive areas in Colorado, totaling 554,428 acres, would probably go into the wilderness preservation system at a later time: Uncompahgre (Uncompaghre
National Forest), Upper Rio Grande (Rio Grande), Wilson Mountains
(San Juan and Uncompahgre), Flat-Tops (White River), Gore Range-
Eagles Nest (Arapaho and White River), San Juan (San Juan). Some of
these areas are potential sources of water supply for future water
projects.

Strong opposition to the Wilderness Bill was voiced at the recent
House subcommittee hearing. The Chamber of Commerce of the United
States urged that the subcommittee submit an unfavorable report.
Opposition statements were vigorously presented by representatives
of the lumber, mining and petroleum industries. Opposing factions
seem to agree on only one point—that the controversial Wilderness
Bill is probably the most misunderstood legislation before Congress.

Jack Bacon, UPI: "Never in the turbulent history of the
West, even during lawless gold rush days, have so many
conflicting interests been engaged in the fight for her
resources as there are today.

"Today's battle lines are being drawn in Congress—not in
the dusty street in front of a saloon or on the sandy bank
of a gold flecked stream. But there is a lot more at stake,
both in cash value and in the number of people affected.

"The problem is the prevention of dissipation of natural
resources—including outdoor recreation facilities. Nobody
opposes this, of course. The fight is over the means."

Secretary of Interior Udall: "The days when a courageous
President could win great conservation victories by the stroke
of a pen are over. The pressures of a growing industrial
society press heavily on our resources; competition for land
and water increases; hard choices and vast public and private
expenditures are now the instruments of conservation progress."
OTHER NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL: The river basin planning act (Water Resources Planning Act of 1962) doesn't have a chance of passage during this session of Congress. Everybody agrees that more coordination is needed between state and federal programs in order to solve the nation's waterheadaches—but few can agree how it should be done. . . A bill to authorize Bostwick Park reclamation project near Montrose has been introduced, but it has no chance of congressional action this session. . . Pike National Forest in Colorado would be increased in size by a bill which has been referred to the House Interior Committee. . . Mineral revenue bill introduced by Wyoming congressmen would take money away from the federal reclamation fund by increasing the percentage of revenue which a state receives from mineral leases on federal lands within its boundaries. Passage chances are slim. . . Western Slope oil shale development would benefit from congressional approval of a $187,000 oil shale research budget item now before Congress. Senate appropriations subcommittee approved, but the House disapproved.

WATER PEOPLE: Hatfield Chilson, U.S. district court judge, will receive a Colorado University award for "outstanding achievement". Chilson formerly was an assistant Secretary of Interior and a prominent Colorado water lawyer. . . Silmon Smith, well known Grand Junction water lawyer, was recently presented a certificate by the state bar association for 50 years of service to the legal profession. . . Ralph Sargent, Jr. has been elected vice president in charge
of the operations division of the Public Service Co. of Colorado. Sargent has long been prominent in Colorado water and power activities. He was one of the early prime movers behind the Colorado Water Congress effort.

Helene Monberg, native of Leadville, received second prize in the 1961 Thomas L. Stokes memorial award for outstanding journalistic contributions to public understanding and awareness in the fields of natural resources and conservation of energy. Miss Monberg is Washington correspondent for the Pueblo Chieftain and Star-Journal, the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, the Durango Daily Herald and several New Mexico newspapers. She recently completed a series of seven articles detailing the present status of the reclamation program. . . . Bill Davoren, former administrative assistant to Gov. McNichols and arrangements workhorse on water meetings, has been named chairman of the Pacific Southwest Field Committee, an Interior Dep't regional liaison group located in Salt Lake City. . . . Three Colorado Water Conservation Board members whose terms expire this month have been reappointed to new three-year terms by Gov. McNichols. They are Benjamin F. Stapleton of Denver, L.S. (Ted) McCandless of Craig and William H. Nelson of Grand Junction.

R. J. Tipton, Denver consulting engineer, was general chairman of the second technical conference on irrigation, drainage and flood control, held May 16-17 at Omaha. Tipton is also chairman of the U.S. executive committee of the International Committee on
Irrigation and Drainage. ICID will meet next year in Tokyo

... Harold Hopkins, Pueblo inspection engineer for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, was recently presented an award for superior service by Secretary of Agriculture Freeman. Hopkins' job is inspecting various SCS-designed irrigation, flood prevention and watershed protection projects throughout the state ... Gov. McNichols was a member of the Governors' panel at the White House Conference on Conservation held May 24-25 in Washington, D.C. and attended by 400 prominent conservationists.

New sustaining members in the Colorado Water Congress: Water Supply and Storage Co., Fort Collins ... Holbrook Mutual Irrigation Co., Cheraw ... Big Thompson Soil Conservation District, Loveland.

COLORADO CITIES AND TOWNS: Las Animas wants to build a million gallon a day saline water conversion demonstration plant that would cost from $1 to $1.8 million. The federal Office of Saline Water, Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Las Animas city engineer are studying the feasibility of the proposal. If this demonstration plant is built, it would serve as a prototype for other Colorado communities with saline water problems ... Montrose will be the location of a 135-employee Bureau of Reclamation power operations and maintenance office for the Colorado River project ... North Denver Civic Assn. has asked Denver City Council to stop "mass medication" until the facts on fluoridation are made known to the public.
Interesting hindsight analysis of the Pueblo water bond defeat is provided by Dayle H. Molen of the Pueblo Chieftain and Star-Journal.

Dayle Molen: "In fairness to local newspaper, radio and TV media, there has been a great deal of information presented on the (Pueblo water) problem in the past several years. Whether it got through to the people is another question, in view of the election results . . .

"It is difficult to pinpoint the exact reasons for the defeat, but I would guess that ignorance of the stakes, reluctance to approve any bond issues, and unwillingness to accept the board's views at face value are among the major ones. It may also be that not enough people are suffering from water problems. As long as their pressure is good and they have a reasonable amount of irrigation water, they may well question whether a $6 million expenditure is necessary."

Palisade has received a $10,500 federal grant to assist in construction of a $41,000 sewage treatment facility . . . Westminster is planning a special election to obtain approval of a proposed multi-million dollar water bond issue . . . Manzanola is completing a new sewage disposal plant . . . Cortez city council has voted to issue $550,000 general obligation bonds to improve and expand its water system . . . Hayden will be the site of Colorado-Ute Electric Assn's $31-million coal-fired electric generating plant . . . Nucla will spend $70,000 for reservoir improvements . . . Thornton area water rates have been reduced by Northwest Utilities Co. and Western Hills Utility Co . . . Arvada rate increases will average about 7 percent inside city and 11 percent outside city . . . Broomfield will vote July 24 on whether the city should issue $450,000 worth of water and sewer bonds to buy the Broomfield Heights Mutual Service Assn . . . Golden will have its new $200,000 water treatment plant in operation by July 15.