

Mr. ASPINALL. The reason that I ask this, of course, is that I want the record to be perfectly clear that the position of supporting dams on the Colorado River came from the Department. It did not come from any individual of this committee. We accepted the Department's position and tried to further legislation in that respect. It makes no difference to me personally whether or not there are any dams on this river. This is in territory outside of my own personal jurisdiction, or, for that matter, outside of any area where I have any responsibility as far as the Colorado River is concerned.

But there have been a lot of inferences, a lot of things said about dams on the Colorado River and in the Grand Canyon. This was not a matter that was suggested by the members of this committee and it was not suggested by any particular individual of this committee. Some individuals of this committee took umbrage at the fact that these dams were suggested. They had a right to do so. Now, it is clear that there are no dams to be built on the river as far as the present position of the Department and the Administration, as I understand—that is correct, is it not, Mr. Secretary?

Secretary UDALL. Yes; our position has evolved and I think we have to take the responsibility you have suggested.

Mr. ASPINALL. And the position at the present time of the administration is that there will be no dams built?

Secretary UDALL. That is correct.

Mr. ASPINALL. That is all there is to it, as far as that is concerned.

Now, turning for a moment to your proposal for prepurchase of the thermal generating capacity, which is the first matter covered in your statement, there are several points I would like to have clarified.

First, Mr. Secretary, as I understand your proposal, the Federal Government would not actually own a part of the proposed large thermal generating plant but would only acquire the right to the power and energy from a portion of the plant. As I understand it, this proposal was made only after preliminary negotiations with non-Federal interests. I believe you said the WEST planning group; is that correct?

Secretary UDALL. That is correct.

Mr. ASPINALL. Can you advise the committee as to the present status of these negotiations?

Secretary UDALL. Mr. Chairman, we had extensive negotiations about a year ago, prior to our first hearing. We have, of course, touched all of our bases since then. This project is needed in the region. I think it will move forward on schedule—in other words, it will be one of the early projects, large thermal projects to be built. The main entities that are interested include such private power companies as Southern California Edison and the Arizona Public Service Co., and such public power companies as Salt River project. They maintain the position they did previously, that they would construct and own the plant. You are quite right, we do not propose to own any part of the plant.

Mr. ASPINALL. And you have included all non-Federal entities that are involved in your negotiations so far?

Secretary UDALL. That is correct.