

Secretary UDALL. Congressman, that is an interesting question. The reason we included the tree-ring studies, which I think are considered scientifically sound, is to show what the real long-term trend has been.

The interesting thing about this 60-year period is we have had both an unusually extended dry cycle and a major wet cycle embraced within it.

Now, this does not mean necessarily that we are going into a major wet cycle. We might go into a minor wet cycle, or a minor dry cycle.

Mr. ASPINALL. What I am trying to get at is that there are alternative ways of using this information that could give us comparative figures for different assumptions.

Would that be of any value in trying to estimate this water supply over the particular period of time rather than an arbitrary 60 years that starts some place and ends some place depending on who happened to start keeping records at the particular time in 1922?

Secretary UDALL. You can use any assumptions you want. If one wants to be optimistic, he can use certain assumptions or if he wants to be pessimistic, he can use others. But we have tried in our calculations to stick to the knowns as much as possible in terms of the calculations that we have made.

Mr. ASPINALL. That give you the most optimistic figure possible?

Secretary UDALL. No, I do not think it does. Since we are in the end of a long and severe dry cycle.

Mr. ASPINALL. There is no way to average it any higher than 14.96.

Mr. DOMINY. If you use the whole period of record, that is it. But some people are arguing that we should use records only since 1922 and throw out the period 1906 to 1922, which was the period of high runoff. If you are going to argue that way, why not leave out the last 5 or 6 years that have been a period of low runoff?

Yet we have added in these last years to be consistent. We believe the longest period of major record is the right period to use in projections of stream flow runoff.

Mr. ASPINALL. If it does in fact coincide with these long-range wet and dry cycles.

Mr. HOSMER. I withdraw my reservation.

Mr. JOHNSON. Any further reservations?

(No response.)

Mr. JOHNSON. If not, Mr. Secretary, you will get that to the committee also?

Secretary UDALL. Yes.