

Mr. ASPINALL. I am surprised you defend the executive department. I am interested in your discussion of weather modification as the means of increasing the water supplies of the river. I am in full agreement with the research that the department is conducting in this field, but, at the present time, you and I both know that this is not a dependable source of new water.

Do you agree with me on that at the present time?

Secretary UDALL. We have the scientists of the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver working on this. I have the highest regard for their scientific competence, their scientific approach. I know they want to move slowly and be sure of what they are doing. We are about 10 years off, in their judgment, if we give them the right kind of research support, from knowing what we really can do and how and what results are possible.

Mr. ASPINALL. At some time in the future, if the water supply from the Colorado River can be increased by this means, the additional supplies surely will be welcomed by all the States in the basin and quickly put to beneficial use. But this is surely not a source on which to base the planning and justification of the central Arizona project, or any other project in the basin, at least at the present time.

Secretary UDALL. I have to answer in two parts:

The central Arizona project, as the Bureau has planned it, does not rely on this kind of augmentation. It stands on its own merits.

On the other hand, however, when I look at the long-term future of the basin, I am rather optimistic about weather modification. But for the shorter term, I don't think we should base the plans for the central Arizona project on weather modification.

Mr. ASPINALL. One last question:

Under your present investigation and in accordance with your present thinking, when would you propose that the construction of the projects authorized in the legislation now before this committee be commenced?

Secretary UDALL. Fiscal year 1970 is the date we have in mind, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ASPINALL. You say this when you know full well that the administration, the Bureau of the Budget, has looked at our \$2.5 billion-plus backlog of authorizations and they are only giving us this coming year new construction money of approximately \$203 million.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time with the understanding that the other members will have their time and if there are any other matters that come up during our proceedings, that I be allowed to come back again.

May I say to our committee members that we will adjourn but we will come back this afternoon. The Secretary will be with us. The Secretary will not be with us tomorrow, but he has said he will be with us Thursday if it is necessary for him to be here.

Mr. JOHNSON. We are in recess until 2 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 12 o'clock noon, the subcommittee was recessed, to reconvene at 2 p.m., this same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Mr. JOHNSON. The Subcommittee on Irrigation and Reclamation will resume its hearing.

I now recognize the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Saylor.

Mr. SAYLOR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.