

As I left the committee room this morning, people in the audience said that they had observed that there was a smile on my face when the chairman of the full committee was interrogating the Secretary and the Commissioner of Reclamation, and they wondered why. I would just like to tell the chairman that I was torn, as it were, between two songs, as to whether to open my statement this morning with "Oh, what a beautiful morning, Oh, what a beautiful day, I've got a beautiful feeling, Everything's going my way" or "All the world is waiting for the sunrise, Every rose is heavy with dew."

You might wonder why two songs that are as opposite to one another have me torn. I want to say publicly that there is no Member of this Congress now or in the 20 years it has been my privilege to serve, who has been a greater advocate of reclamation than the Honorable Wayne A. Aspinall, the chairman of the full committee. And when he asked the question that he did this morning, he was following the same pattern of questions that a man from Pennsylvania named Saylor has been asking of the Bureau of Reclamation since 1949. And when I asked those questions—trying to get truthful answers—I was accused of being an enemy of reclamation. If the Bureau of Reclamation had given to me the same kind of forthright answers that the Secretary of the Interior has given to the chairman this morning, we might have had an entirely different picture in a great deal of the so-called semiarid West over the past number of years.

First, Mr. Secretary, let me say to you that I want to commend you for the answers you gave in response to the letter which the chairman forwarded to you. I think that you have conscientiously tried within the limits of the Bureau of Reclamation's ability to come as close as any Secretary has ever done in giving some of the best testimony that has been presented before this committee.

Now, I have a few questions to ask. Back when the Upper Colorado River project was authorized, in the hearings before this committee during the 84th and 85th Congress, the Bureau of Reclamation testified as to the flow of the river and when I at that time questioned the reliability of the Bureau's figures, I was told that there was absolutely no doubt about it. That the figures of the Bureau were correct and that there were not only 15 million acre-feet of water in the river, but that there was also enough water to do what people who met in Santa Fe in 1922 anticipated, that there would be water to divide over and above that figure between both the upper and lower basins.

Now, Mr. Secretary, I gather from the figures given us today that the only really dependable figures on which you have any absolute guarantee as to their reliability on the flow of the Colorado River are from 1929 until 1968. Is this correct?

STATEMENT OF HON. STEWART L. UDALL, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR—Resumed

Secretary UDALL. Mr. Congressman, I want to be understood on this. The words I used this morning with regard to the 1906-1922 or 1906-1929 period were that in the view of our experts these data are sufficiently accurate to be highly reliable. I do not want to confuse the record here on that point. It is our view that although the flows were not measured at Lee Ferry, as they were later, the data are accurate and reliable.