

The only difference between the Colorado River and the Columbia and the Missouri and the Sacramento is that the Colorado has not yet recovered. Certainly that does not give me any reason to think that the climate of the United States has changed. Three of major drainage areas of the West—two of them drain more country than the Colorado River above Lee Ferry—have all had recurrences of wet cycles similar to the earlier records on those rivers. I think that the hydrology of the Colorado River, as was testified by the gentleman who went clear back to 1250 and took tree rings into account illustrates that this is a river that has longer periods of ups and downs than the average. It is kind of like the differences between the hog market and the cattle market. The hog market varies a lot faster than the cattle market. It takes the cattle market a lot longer to recover a longer cycle from one high point to the next.

The Colorado River has long periods of drought, then it has long periods of wet spells. I certainly think we would be doing an injustice to everybody who relies on the Colorado River for its future water supply to decide that it is only the years since 1922 that we ought to take into account in projecting water supply.

Mr. SAYLOR. Mr. Secretary and Mr. Commissioner, what you are trying to tell us is you have shown us some nice charts. The chart shows that for three of the four river basins which you chose—not me, nor members of his committee—

Mr. DOMINY. Do you know of any other four principal rivers in the West?

Mr. SAYLOR. Just a minute. You picked them out. We did not pick them out.

It shows that they have had their ups and downs. The Colorado River is the only one that you have shown that has gone down and down and down, and the indications are that it is still going down. You would ask us to come along here and authorize a billion dollar project or more on the basis of the fact that, well, somebody cut down a tree that went back to 1200 and counted tree rings and you are going to tell us we should rely on the tree rings rather than the statistics that you have. This is just what you suggested to us.

If you are going to talk about the hog market and the difference between the hog market and the cattle market, at least you can get a hamburger or pork chops out of those whether the market is up or down. You cannot get much out of a dry stream for irrigating crops as your own figures indicate. I want a project, but I do not want to ask the people of this country to buy a project where there is not going to be enough water to take care of it.

Now then, Mr. Secretary, let us move on a little bit to some of the next things that you have talked about in your upper basin depletion.

On page 15 you stated,

It seems more likely that some reserves will be held for future municipal and industrial growth. Also influencing our judgment is the uncertainty as to whether the Upper Basin is obligated to meet part of any Mexican Water Treaty deficiencies. Until that issue is resolved, we doubt that projects dependent on the contested water supply, as a practical matter, would be authorized or undertaken.

My question to you, Mr. Secretary, is in view of that statement, is that the reason that I find absolutely no reference whatsoever to the five projects in Colorado in the upper basin. And is the im-