

foot aqueduct or a 3,000-second-foot aqueduct, you still want us to authorize the building of the central Arizona project based on these assumptions and to guess that the assumptions, some of which have been made, as referred to by the chairman of the full committee, by men eminently as qualified as people in the Bureau, indicate that you just do not begin to have enough water to build this first phase of this project.

Secretary UDALL. I would rather the Commissioner answer the question, although I want to say one thing as a preface to his answer because essentially, when you authorize a long term water project, it seems to me you must make certain assumptions, make certain predictions, as it were, with regard to the future.

There is a question of whether one wants to be optimistic or pessimistic. There is certain elbow room of that kind. But I think the main point, as I understand it, that the Bureau makes—and I have let them make all the calculations and the figures are theirs—is that they feel the soundest and most scientific way to approach this is in terms of the known data. I do not regard their figures as being necessarily on the liberal side. I think they sort of cut down the middle. They do not say, "Well, we are going to be conservative this time," or "We are going to be liberal in our estimate." They have to hue to the best scientific data they have available.

Mr. DOMINY. This problem is no different for the central Arizona project than on any major project the Bureau has built in the last 60 years, Congressman Saylor. We have to operate on assumptions made at the time of planning and construction.

Mr. SAYLOR. If you will, permit me to give the chairman and myself at least one little pat on the back. Until we got on this committee, you and your predecessors had never built a project within its estimated cost. So your past record until this committee began to take a real good look at you was not good. Now you have improved. I want to commend you for the improvement you have made.

Mr. DOMINY. Thank you, sir. I only want to take credit for the last 9 years. That is as long as I have been Commissioner.

But let us go back to Hoover. There were people who thought this never should be built. They said it would silt up in 15 or 20 years. Well, it did not silt up in 15 or 20 years. Even before Glen Canyon was built, it took all the silt of the Colorado River for 25 years and was completely unimpaired.

They said Grand Coulee should not be built, that you could not possibly market the power up there. During the war that is the place we really used it to good advantage. They said after the war you will not need that power at all. We could not even stop the turbines and generators long enough to rewind them. That is how much the demand for power was.

So I am not impressed with negative assumptions that these projects will not work and they will not pay out and they are a boondoggle and that sort of thing. That has not been the case in reclamation history. Nor will it be in this project.

We have made valid assumptions based on known facts, and we are prepared to defend them before any tribunal. We have admitted that without augmentation there will be a gradual diminution of the amount of water available to the central Arizona project, and, as a