

Mr. Secretary, in your statement 2 days ago, as I understand it, you stated that the desalting features that you describe were based on 1995 desalting technology and on 1995 atomic electricity technology. Would you explain what desalting technology you are contemplating in this period?

Secretary UDALL. Congressman, this does involve a great deal of guesswork. I am sure the idea was to put this in as a basis for assumption. There is much more speculation with regard to that than there is as to the feasibility of a pumped storage project of the kind we describe. I know there is some skepticism on this committee, which may be well founded—

Mr. HOSMER. I am not exactly skeptical. I am just wondering what you are doing. So far, we have been brute forcing and in order to get an additional amount of desalted water, you have to put in an additional unit. I was wondering if you had some breakthrough in mind that would overcome that?

Secretary UDALL. Quite frankly, the big breakthrough in desalting is going to be your Bolsa Island project. When we get that completed and in operation, I think we are going to be fairly well grounded in projecting whether we can then move to larger sizes of nuclear reactors in desalting and get further reductions in cost.

All the engineers think this will be the case. But let's get Bolsa Island in operation and then we will know. That is the reason I may be a little more conservative than the Bureau of Reclamation engineers who prepared this reconnaissance study, because I feel I would be a little more sure about projections, and I am sure they would, if we had a large plant in operation. There is no such plant in the world. This is going to be the first one. Let's get it in operation and then we will know.

Mr. HOSMER. Leaving the desalting technology for a moment, insofar as the nuclear technology is concerned, did you say you were assuming that it would be such in 1995 that you would be getting two mill power?

Secretary UDALL. Well, the Congressman is a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. I would really defer to your judgment on this as to what kind of reactors we are going to have in 1990 and whether the fast-breeder technology will be perfected. I do not want to pretend to be an authority on this.

Mr. HOSMER. No, but you have made this nice feasibility study or reconnaissance study based upon some assumptions and I am trying to find out if there is a two mill power assumption. I may think you can go down to a half mill, maybe.

Mr. DOMINY. This is based on the atomic energy people's assumptions that we would have fast breed nuclear reactors in the period 1990-95. It was also based on the salt water research people's judgment that we would have improved in the water plant, including the multi-stage flash evaporators and converters and we would have better heat transmission facilities in the next 25 years.

Mr. HOSMER. Of course, there is an alternative, as you understand. What you do is instead of desalting sea water, is to break it down into its components of hydrogen and oxygen at the sea. Then you, through a pipe, send the hydrogen to Arizona, say, and make sale of the oxygen. Then in Arizona, you burn the hydrogen and the smoke is water and use the heat for Arizona's factories and the water for its farms. Dis-