

Mr. TUNNEY. I notice somewhere in the record of last year—it disappeared and I have not been able to dig it out—assuming that there is no 4.4 protection to California, when would you anticipate that California would have to share shortages in the lower basin below 4.4?

Mr. DOMINY. Below 4.4, we do not anticipate—

Mr. TUNNEY. Even if the upper basin completes its project?

Mr. DOMINY. You could run into deficiency on the 4.4 along about 1990, or possibly a little earlier.

Mr. TUNNEY. Assuming that you were going to have extensive works construction to, say, import water from some other source, or assuming that you were going to have to build a huge desalinization plant that could make up the Mexican Treaty obligation, how long a lead-time do you think would be needed to either construct the canals or build the desalinization plant?

Mr. DOMINY. From 5 to 10 years leadtime, depending on how far you went to the augmenting source.

Mr. TUNNEY. Five or 10 years?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes.

Mr. TUNNEY. So then if the Congress approved, we will say, the program by 1980, we could then have those works in operation that would supply the additional water by 1990?

Mr. DOMINY. I think this is a reasonable assumption.

Mr. TUNNEY. One of the great problems for water users in the Southwest, especially in Coachella and Imperial Valley is the fact that the salinity of the water is getting worse and worse. Has the Department gone into a study of what the salinity factor will be, assuming that you have development of the upper basin projects and runoff back into the Colorado River?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes, the Geological Survey and Bureau of Reclamation have been monitoring the Colorado River for water quality purposes for a long while. We have made periodic reports as requested by the Congress on this subject. Our judgment at the moment, collective judgment of the Geological Survey and the water pollution people and the Bureau of Reclamation in the Department, would be that with full Upper Basin development the water quality at Imperial Dam would gradually worsen to probably something like 1,400 parts per million of dissolved minerals.

Mr. TUNNEY. Has there been any discussion with the Department of Agriculture or with water users in the area to determine what effect or impact this would have upon crops?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes, indeed. We are considering this all the time and there is research underway on how to prevent adverse effects from happening, and what measures can be taken to prevent the quality from worsening. And, of course, augmentation would have tremendous influence on this, too, if that were to occur.

Secretary UDALL. Congressman, I want to add here just so the record shows this, I know your interest in your problem, because some of your people are, like the Mexicans, the last man on the ditch, so to speak. In our statement 2 days ago, we in effect officially announced that we have decided to set aside and hold in abeyance the determination under the Water Pollution Control Act of salinity standards for the river. The reason we did this is that we do not know all the an-