

Mr. JOHNSON. Would the gentleman yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Mr. TUNNEY. Yes.

Mr. SAYLOR. Thank you for yielding.

I did not want the Secretary to leave this point of water quality in the river with the implication that the Department has done nothing about it.

Mr. Secretary, you have been complying with the provisions of the Boulder Canyon Project Act all these years, requiring the Bureau of Reclamation to study constantly the water quality of the Colorado River.

Is this not true?

Secretary UDALL. This is correct. I think the water quality of this river has probably been monitored and studied more than any other river in the country. It has had to be.

Mr. SAYLOR. I did not want anybody to get the impression from questions of my colleague from California that the Secretary of Interior was not complying with the Boulder Canyon Project Act which requires him to make these studies every year, constantly.

Mr. TUNNEY. I am glad you cleared the record. It certainly was not my intention to leave that implication.

Mr. SAYLOR. Thank you.

Mr. TUNNEY. What is the target date, Mr. Secretary, for completion of that study you just referred to?

Secretary UDALL. We don't have a target date as such. I just expressed my own hope that we could have a pretty good idea of what kind of project might be possible in a first stage within the next year or so.

Mr. TUNNEY. Is the Government of Mexico cooperating?

Secretary UDALL. It has been cooperative. We have had some delays, but I would say the study has moved along about as you would expect, with a major project of this kind. We have a lot of problems—how you would finance it, how the benefits would be shared. It would be built in Mexico and so on. There will be a lot of very serious problems that have to be worked out.

Mr. TUNNEY. Mr. Secretary, from the point of view of the Department, do you think that right now you favor augmentation in the form of desalinization and weather modification or the importation of water from some other source, wherever that might be?

Secretary UDALL. My answer would be I think we have to be very open minded on this subject now. These are different methods. Two involve new scientific techniques. Another involves massive engineering works which involve not only engineering problems, but also political problems. I think people who are concerned about the long term welfare of the country ought to be open minded at this point, look at alternatives and see what the economics are, what the problems are, and then make judgments at some subsequent time.

Mr. TUNNEY. Well, what date do you think the Department would be ready to make a decision on alternatives? Because this is extremely important to those of us who realize that we are dividing up shortages. I certainly appreciate the philosophy that you have to weigh alternatives. But people have been weighing all alternatives for many years. I would like to know when you feel the Department would be willing to make a solid recommendation.