

Secretary UDALL. This is the problem the Commissioner has already mentioned, that the likelihood is that we will have more of a salinity problem. We will have to decide how serious a problem this will be, and that is the reason I deliberately set aside the question of the establishment of water standards. I don't think we know enough in the Department yet so we can sit down and lay this thing out cold, say here is what we face now, here is what we are going to have to face, here is what we are going to have to do, so that everybody understands the consequences of water salinity standards.

Mr. TUNNEY. Can I go to my area, to my district, and say this 680,000 figure was arrived at considering that water was going to get more saline in the river and that there is probably going to have to be an additional use of water for leaching purposes as a result of the increased salinity and that the 685,000 feet contemplated all these factors I have just mentioned?

Can I go down to my area and tell them this is a possible fact, that you said that today?

Mr. DOMINY. The salvage that we are referring to in that figure is actually comprised of phreatophyte control, ground water recovery, channelization, and includes the 170,000 acre-feet that we are saving at Senator Wash which is already being accomplished. None of those actually affect the quality of water for use in your district, Congressman Tunney.

Mr. TUNNEY. Does it assume a reduction in the use of water by irrigators?

Mr. DOMINY. No; as a matter of fact, there have been some rather emotional statements made about the wasting of water. I think the Imperial Irrigation District, for example, has a very commendable record, because all of the research work at Riverside and other irrigation and agricultural experimental stations indicate that on soils of the type that you have in Imperial Valley and the ground water conditions that prevail there, you need an override in your irrigation delivery to the farm of something in the order of 23 to 25 percent in order to take care of the leaching requirements and keep the land in cultivation. And this is about what you are doing.

This last year, the Imperial Irrigation District figures it used about 48,000 acre-feet in total above the 23-percent factor. Our measurements would put it at about 100,000, but that is within the plus or minus margin of error of calculations.

So I think they are doing a very commendable job, actually, in irrigating soils of the character involved.

Mr. TUNNEY. Mr. Dominy, then I can assume that even if we have this saving of 680,000 acre-feet, we would not see Salton Sea dry up.

Mr. DOMINY. No, sir; I think you are going to be putting return flows, from the Coachella and Imperial Valley, into the Salton Sea because of the nature and character of the soils you are irrigating.

Mr. HOSMER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TUNNEY. Yes.

Mr. HOSMER. I understand the Imperial Valley Irrigation District has gone into the Salton Sea problem in considerable detail. We do have a paper before the members of the committee.

Mr. TUNNEY. They have a statement which I am going to have introduced; yes, when I have completed my questioning.