

Secretary UDALL. Congressman, let's make the other side of that clear, though, because now having the water pollution control responsibility in my Department, I am much more aware of water quality problems. I would think that your people ought to anticipate that the amount of water that will be going into the Salton Sea from the irrigation district is that amount of water that sound agricultural husbandry in that region requires in terms of leaching and return flows, and that there will not be water that is not needed for agriculture put into the Salton Sea.

Now, I mean we ought to be honest with each other because we are entering into a water shortage era. We are entering into an era where we have to watch water quality and I think everybody ought to know we have these problems.

Mr. TUNNEY. But as I understand the statement of the Commissioner that there is also going to be a flow of water from the farm to the Salton Sea, even if you have a reduction of 680,000 acre-feet in the use of water——

Mr. DOMINY. This is true.

In the last year, for example, 881,000 acre-feet entered Salton Sea from the Imperial Irrigation District. Even if you took the minimum standard of leaching requirements, you would have an excess of 544,000 acre-feet.

Now, we are also getting water from Mexico that flows into the Salton Sea that comes out of the New and Alamo Rivers. There are about 104,000 acre-feet, a little better than that, on an average that comes out of Mexico and drains down across the Imperial Valley and into the Salton Sea.

So what I said a moment ago is that there is only about 100,000 acre-feet more that went into the Salton Sea than would have been under a perfect job of irrigation in the Imperial Valley.

Mr. TUNNEY. Who is going to make the final decisions as to whether or not the irrigation districts in southern California are making proper use of their water or whether they are wasting their water? Is that going to be the Secretary?

Secretary UDALL. Congressman, we have had one experience in 1964 when we had a low water year. This will have to be a joint decision that will be made by the irrigation districts and the Department. What we did that year when we were so short and we had to put ourselves on a very strict regimen was to tighten down as much as we could. The Imperial District took what reduction?

Mr. DOMINY. 10 percent.

Secretary UDALL. They took a 10-percent reduction and they felt that by better management of the water they could get by with that. So we are going to have to be working together closely on what the requirements are. I say it will be a joint decision.

Mr. TUNNEY. I have a few more questions, but Mr. Reinecke, of California, has asked me to yield to him.

Mr. JOHNSON. You are yielding to Mr. Reinecke?

Mr. TUNNEY. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. I was going to recognize Mr. Burton before that.

Mr. BURTON of Utah. Mr. Chairman——

Mr. TUNNEY. I would like to reserve the balance of my time, then. Could I just ask a question off the record?