

Mr. REINECKE. I guess I could rephrase the question.

Have we given up on evaporation control?

Mr. DOMINY. We have not given up on it but the problems of finding a material that does not pollute the water and make it nonusable for all purposes, including fish and wildlife and doesn't increase temperature unduly, and which stays in place when high winds come is almost insurmountable. We are still seeking that material.

Mr. REINECKE. Weather modification, you estimated an increase of a \$1 or \$1.50 a foot. Where would this come from?

Secretary UDALL. This could come from a number of sources. It could be appropriated directly, or could be repaid from a basin fund.

Mr. REINECKE. That is what I want to get at.

In your opinion, is the operational aspect of the basin fund such that you as Secretary will be able to use that without prior appropriation from Congress?

Secretary UDALL. Undoubtedly, Congress would want to control the appropriation of it. But I would think this would be an ideal situation of how a basin fund could and should be used.

Mr. REINECKE. Well, yes, but when you are talking about a very scarce fund being used at \$1 and \$1.50 an acre-foot, we could perhaps find other sources at that same price that would hopefully yield—

Secretary UDALL. If we could get weather modification water at \$1 or \$1.50 an acre-foot, this could be 50 times as cheap as bringing it in from long distances, from northern California or from any other place.

Mr. REINECKE. On that subject, this report is not to be considered as part of the legislation, is that correct?

Secretary UDALL. No, sir. This is merely a report that was prepared to see what the picture might be if we projected future technology.

Mr. REINECKE. One other question regarding the cost of power.

You indicated, I believe, in the report that the steam plant as proposed would provide power at a rate something like 60 percent less costly than if a private utility did it and 30 percent than if a municipal utility did it?

You are not stating here or trying to impress upon the committee that the Federal Government has the Indian sign on power generation, that you can manufacture power cheaper than a private utility?

Secretary UDALL. No, it just happens that under these particular circumstances, this plant, if we did it the way we propose, is very economical.

Mr. REINECKE. The truth really is then that we are subsidizing Federal power. The point is what we think is the cost is not true cost. If it were all stacked up together, since one of the functionaries of WEST is going to operate this as they might operate any other plant, the power is no cheaper to produce, it is just whether we are willing to admit the full cost of Federal power. Is that right?

Secretary UDALL. One can argue it that way. For example, one of the big reductions we get is from the interest-free aspect of repayment of irrigation costs. This helps a great deal. So there are some distortions in there.

Mr. REINECKE. How will the distribution of the central Arizona project water be handled? By the Bureau?