

the other day, I do not think anyone familiar with the type of soils to be irrigated would consider this wasted water. A great deal of research has been done on lands of this type—and incidentally, the Imperial and Coachella Valleys are laboratories for proper use of salted lands for the whole world. People are coming there in ever-increasing numbers to study the manner in which successful irrigation has developed on lands of this character.

I can understand why people from the Salt River Valley in Arizona would not recognize this, because they do not have a similar problem. They have a falling water table, their salts go down naturally, and they have not had serious problems of this nature in the Salt River Valley. But in Imperial and Coachella, you have an entirely different situation. The high water table creates difficult problems of proper irrigation and keeping the salt moving out. This does take from 23 to 25 percent more water than would otherwise be necessary. It is not wasted because of the facts of the case.

Mr. ASPINALL. Would my colleague yield?

Mr. TUNNEY. Yes.

Mr. ASPINALL. This proves that grass is always greener in the other fellow's pasture. Water is always purer in the other fellow's basin, as far as that is concerned.

What interests me is that we have before us the water desalination proposal for ocean water. Nothing has been said about desalting this brackish water here and getting it closer to use than what has been proposed. This could undoubtedly be made part of the conduit system and would be much less expensive than what was proposed in this rather questionable report.

Is it possible, Mr. Secretary or Mr. Dominy, to use any of this water or is there something sacred about keeping the water of the Salton Sea at a certain level?

Mr. DOMINY. Certainly, you have a major problem with regard to the level of Salton Sea.

Mr. ASPINALL. Why is it important to keep a certain level of the Salton Sea? Is it to take care of the birds or the beautiful shores or what?

Mr. DOMINY. There has been extensive development on the shores of the Salton Sea. It has developed into one of the finest recreational areas in the Southwest. I assure you, before a final decision is made as to the best and most economical way of augmenting the Colorado River by desalting, the Salton Sea should be studied much more thoroughly than it ever has been.

However, it is below sea level and it is pretty far south and west. The conveyance would not be appreciably cheaper, in my judgment.

Mr. ASPINALL. After all, if this water is to be used by exchange in the Imperial Valley, you must raise it 300 or 400 feet to put it back upstream again. Certainly, that is a most expensive proposition.

I do not want to argue that. I just wanted to ask the question.

Secretary UDALL. I would like to comment on this, because I think we are really making a record for the long term here. I think the Chairman has raised a very interesting point.

We sometimes lose sight of the fact that the desalting technology is not merely to desalt sea water but also to desalt brackish water. Considering the economic consequences, I think when we start talking