

is difficult to assume that these judgments may be on the conservative side. The achievements that have been made since that first nuclear chain reaction took place just 25 years ago are tremendous.

Mr. WYATT. You are relying on two basic improvements in technology as I understand.

One of them is the fast breeder reactors and the other is basic improvement in the technology of desalting itself, is that correct?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes; it is both the improvement of the atomic reaction, cheapening of the cost of fuel and the application of it to the heat process, as well as the improvement in the materials and processes of desalting. But who would have thought after that first chain reaction in 1942 that 25 years later, half of the new thermal generation capacity being ordered in the United States would be nuclear plants. In just 25 years we have made that kind of progress.

Mr. WYATT. I have just a couple of questions for the Secretary.

Mr. Secretary, I would like to ask whether or not there is a policy of the administration as to the Mexican treaty obligations, whether this is a national obligation or not?

Is there any policy of the administration in this regard at the present time?

Secretary UDALL. The Mexican treaty was entered into, it was ratified by the Senate. It is a primary treaty and as such, it becomes an obligation of the Nation to honor it. Whether one treats it as a national obligation in the sense that seeing that it is fulfilled, seeing that the water is of a sufficiently good quality and so on, are matters that the Congress itself still can decide. We have indicated that if the Congress by legislation wanted to, in effect, make this a national obligation in a thoroughgoing way, beyond the treaty itself, this could be done.

If it is the judgment of the Congress that it is the national interest to so operate this river that serves one of the most arid and one of the fastest growing regions of the country, the administration has simply indicated that it would have no objection to that.

Mr. WYATT. Mr. Secretary, if there is no policy, we should know it. If there is, I think we should know it.

Is there a policy presently of the administration as to whether or not replacement for water that is diverted to Mexico plus water that is lost in transmission, whether or not replacement of that water is a national obligation?

Secretary UDALL. This is what I am implying when I say that if Congress chose to take that view of the river and in effect of replacing this water, it could do so.

I would like to say, too, that I think already, the way we have handled things, the Nation is assuming an obligation with regard to the Mexican Treaty. I will give you one example: The bypass channel that we built to take care of the very salty water out of the Wellton Mohawk Irrigation District. We did not ask the farmers to pay for this; the National Government did it, and I think quite properly so.

Mr. ASPINALL. Will my colleague from Washington yield to me at the present time?

Mr. FOLEY. Yes, I will.

Mr. ASPINALL. Was that charged to the reclamation fund or did that come out of the general Treasury?