

Mr. FOLEY. But amounts above that would not be required to make the Colorado River whole?

Mr. DOMINY. That is right, we would say 2.5 million acre-feet maximum.

Mr. FOLEY. They would be required in order to justify a movement from the Columbia River westward in any kind of feasibility arrangement?

Mr. DOMINY. That is right. The theory I would endorse is that if there is to be an aqueduct from the Columbia River, it would have to be much larger in size to justify what the gentleman suggests.

Mr. HOSMER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FOLEY. Yes.

Mr. HOSMER. Is it not a fact, Mr. Commissioner, that nobody has any idea within reasonable accuracy what in the world it would cost to transport how much water from any place in the West to the Colorado system, from any place in northern California to the Colorado system; that nobody has any hard figures on desalting or any other proposed method of augmentation; and that the purpose of the clauses in this legislation to get in some studies is to give the answers that you are trying to give this morning,

Mr. DOMINY. I am not trying to give definitive answers as to costs. I am giving some judgments which I am confident are realistic.

Mr. HOSMER. Then is it just an idiotic effort to have some studies for the purpose of getting these answers, when you apparently have them.

Mr. DOMINY. No, sir; I have no specific answers as to costs.

Mr. HOSMER. If you do not have them, why don't you tell the gentleman from Washington that you don't have them? You are just making a lot of guesses.

Mr. DOMINY. I merely said it is quite obvious that you can build a conveyance channel for a large quantity of water cheaper per acre-foot than you can build a conveyance for a small quantity of water.

Mr. HOSMER. I would say on construction costs, everybody knows that.

Mr. DOMINY. I have no specific cost estimates.

Mr. HOSMER. Don't you think when these studies are turned out, when they do take in all these alternatives, they will find anything from the Northwest is equally prohibitive, that nobody would consider trying to go that route?

Mr. DOMINY. I think that is right, sir.

Mr. FOLEY. Is it not a fact, Mr. Commissioner, that there is really not much of an impression in your Department that it is economic to move water from the Columbia Basin southwest compared to other available alternatives?

Mr. DOMINY. We have no final judgment and, of course, the quantities involved would play an important part in it.

Mr. FOLEY. If you had to make a present estimate based on the amounts required to make the Colorado River whole, would you judge that transmission of water or diversion of water from the Pacific Northwest is more expensive than any of the other proposals, assuming that they work out as projected?

Mr. DOMINY. Assuming conveyance limited to 2.5 million acre-feet, yes; I would say the cheapest source is in the Southwest rather than to go as far as the Columbia River.