

Mr. ASPINALL. Yes, but you are still in projected scientific operations when you talk about releasing moisture that is in the atmosphere. There is just so much moisture in the atmosphere. It is limited. I think your scientists agree on that.

I am for expanding our knowledge; do not get me wrong, but I want you to be practical. I do not want the record to show that, at the present time, you folks are going out on a limb by suggesting that there could be 1,500,000 acre-feet of water in there by way of modification. I hope that it can prove to be right, because this then could resolve many of our present problems—at least up to the year 2020.

Secretary UDALL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to confine it, because the scientists that are working on this program are conservative and we ask them to be conservative. Rather than quoting a figure, I think we ought to say, as they say to me, 10 to 20 percent increase. I think we just ought to let it go at that, because I do not want to let it go beyond our scientists because I think they are very fine scientists. The methods they hope to use will only augment rainfall or snowfall and not take moisture or rainfall or snowfall away from other basins in other regions. That just will not wash and we all know it.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Secretary, let's take a 100-percent factor and assume the cost would be \$3. I am willing to go 100 percent. Even that is substantially below the annual O. & M. cost for any kind of system to divert water by service. I am not talking about construction costs. I am just talking about the annual O. & M. Operation and maintenance costs for any kind of diverted service are twice as much as your scientists give you which you say are conservative.

Secretary UDALL. That is right.

Mr. FOLEY. Is there any reputable scientific opinion that disputes your advice in the Department?

Secretary UDALL. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. FOLEY. Is not this a matter in which the taxpayers should be rightfully interested in terms of the immense costs that are involved in augmentation schemes?

Secretary UDALL. Congressman, I think the whole country, the whole world, is interested in this. If we come up with scientific answers to augment water, this will apply not only to the Colorado Basin but to the whole world. It can be enormously useful. I think this is a program of worldwide significance. We have to perfect it. We have to know what we are doing. We have to know how to control it. But it is real good news. The thing that people always decide to do if they are prudent is to do the cheapest thing, the most effective thing.

Mr. FOLEY. That is a point that I am glad you made, Mr. Secretary, because when we are talking about economy, we are really talking about efficiency, are we not?

Secretary UDALL. That is right.

Mr. FOLEY. We are talking about the application of rational, scientific means to a practical problem.

Secretary UDALL. Quite frankly, this is my own hope. As I have confessed to the committee, I was originally skeptical about the National Water Commission. If it does its job right just as the Outdoor Recreation Commission did and the Public Land Law Review Commission, it would bring to bear very good minds and very good studies and I think we will know more about real parameters and real prior-