

Mr. FOLEY. As a matter of fact, Mr. Secretary, at the risk of belaboring the point, you have made fantastic progress, as the Commissioner has pointed out, in the last decade in both the weather modification and desalting fields, have you not?

Secretary UDALL. It is less than the last decade.

Mr. FOLEY. The last 5 years?

Secretary UDALL. Yes; I was going to say the changes in the last 7 years since I have been Secretary have been quite marked. We began the weather modification in 1961. We had none prior to that time. Congress initiated this thing and pushed it on us in a sense. I am glad they did.

As far as desalting is concerned, it kind of amazes me that we are getting ready to build the Bolsa Island plant. We weren't thinking this big at all in 1961.

Mr. FOLEY. As I recall, there was a man in the Department, whose name I will conveniently not remember, who said he did not believe in his lifetime the cost of desalted water would go for less than \$2 a thousand. That is not too many years ago.

Well, on the basis of what you and the Commissioner have said, is it not also a matter of common sense that this committee and the Congress should give a reasonable opportunity for a general study of these problems by the National Water Commission before attempting to make any firm judgment on means of augmentation for the Colorado?

Secretary UDALL. That has been our basic position.

Mr. FOLEY. And your position would be that this committee and the Congress should remain neutral on the various alternatives which might be eventually be chosen to accomplish this end?

Secretary UDALL. I think we all ought to keep an open mind, but we ought not to just sit and do nothing. I think we should be studying the alternatives, keeping a close eye on weather modification, desalting, and looking at the economics of these other things and at the long-term needs.

I think the more our water planning is geared to the long term, the more we exercise foresight, the better. The one reason that southern California has grown the way it has, in my judgment, is that it had a few people there who had foresight and established the Metropolitan Water District. It was really one of the great decisions of the West. They thought big and planned big and so on. This is the truth.

Mr. FOLEY. Well, Mr. Secretary, is there any provision of existing law which prevents you from doing the kind of studies that you are alluding to on any of these things?

Secretary UDALL. No; I think the answer is "No."

Mr. TUNNEY. Would you yield, Mr. Foley?

Mr. FOLEY. Yes.

Mr. TUNNEY. Just one observation.

That is that if Mr. Foley and Commissioner Dominy are convinced that the Columbia River is going to be the most costly and therefore the least likely source of augmentation, I cannot understand why they object too much to studying all alternatives.

Mr. FOLEY. We do not object to studying them. If the gentleman will recall, the Pacific Northwest members on this body supported actively the National Water Commission legislation, which specifically authorizes the Commission to study interbasin transfer. The Secre-