

bring in some facts and figures. We are talking about bringing that water down from the Columbia through an area that very badly needs water itself. You take the great area that lies in eastern Oregon, eastern California, all of Nevada, western Utah and part of Idaho; certainly they are to be considered, and it would be a sizable amount of water, I presume, that would be brought from the Columbia and then that portion placed in the Lake Mead, as the final. I imagine this would reduce your figures that the gentlemen from the Northwest seemed to think are too exorbitant at this time.

What would your comment be?

Say that we went to the Columbia and agreed after the National Water Commission, if it is established, makes a recommendation and we would get into the reconnaissance and feasibility study, that the amount should be subdivided at 15 mills an acre-foot.

Mr. DOMINY. I stand on my previous statement that if the import in the first segment is limited to 2.5 million acre-feet, it appears cheaper to get it from somewhere in the Southwest. If the objective is to augment the river to take care of the next 70 or 80 years growth for the Pacific Southwest, then perhaps because of the economies of size, it might be possible to go to the Pacific Northwest, assuming that surplus water is there, at a unit cost comparable with the cost of a smaller import of desalted water for the first two and a half million acre-feet.

Mr. BURTON of Utah. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. BURTON of Utah. Mr. Commissioner, is there any reason why any augmentation of water that derives from the basin need be put in Lake Mead?

Mr. DOMINY. At first we thought all that was needed was to bring it over and put it in at Imperial. But we discovered when we got into the study that in order to get the mixing and accommodate the 24 hours a day, 365 days a year input and balance it with the vagaries of the diversion requirements, it was necessary to introduce it up as far as Mojave. When it gets that far north, then there is reason to consider putting it in Lake Mead and generate peaking power from that water coming back down through the generators. That is why we finally selected Lake Mead as the mixing point in this study.

We think that in the feasibility stage of a study, and we are also working on this as the Secretary pointed out in a joint study with Mexico, that consideration should be given to locating the desalting plant at the Gulf of California and conveying the desalted water to a reservoir on the Bill Williams River where the desired mixing could be achieved. We feel this could reduce the conveyance costs substantially.

Mr. FOLEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JOHNSON. The gentleman from Washington.

Mr. FOLEY. If we are going to think in terms of not the Southwest but irrigating the Pacific Northwest, should we not maybe change the focus a little bit to consider the possibility of a North American plan and irrigate the Western United States?

We have a \$200,000 item in the appropriations budget to move more water to central Texas.

Is this not an example why the entire question of large-scale movement of water has to be considered in the national context by the Na-