

Secretary UDALL. Congressman, I would like to put this in focus as I happen to be personally very familiar with the situation. First of all, there are something like 4,000 Indians in the tribe. They happen to have some of the best bottom land on the river and naturally the best water rights. They get their water out of Lake Havasu. They faced the choice 2 or 3 years ago when their water rights were clarified finally by the Supreme Court of how they wanted to go about developing it. They could have come to Congress and gotten little dabs and dabs of money, as we are trying to do with the Navajo project, and had the Federal Government build them a project. Instead, they chose the more rapid rate by entering into long-term leases with well-to-do California farmers and others whereby these people would subjugate the land, build the canal systems, and so on. Many of these Indians are also farmers. And I should add, too, that they are very good farmers. We hope more and more of them will get into the farming business.

But they wanted to get their land under production in a hurry. Therefore, they chose to go into these large leases with people who are raising specialty crops there.

The Indians made the decisions. I think they probably made the right decisions because they wanted to move rapidly.

Mr. HOSMER. Well, but they want money. Whether they get it by farming, by leasing acreage, or it drops out of the sky, or it is in the form of a payment for their acreage which releases the water to a higher and better use, probably. I just would like to offer this as a way to pick up considerable numbers of acre-feet of water at a cheap price and still have the Indians better off than they would be otherwise.

Secretary UDALL. Congressmen, they are not just interested in money. They get a lot of jobs out of this. They are putting more land into production themselves. They want to farm this land. I do not think they would be any more interested than the Palo Verde farmers, the Yuma farmers, or others in selling their land.

Mr. HOSMER. The Indians out in Oklahoma like to get the oil royalties.

I do not know if this is an inflexible attitude on their part.

Secretary UDALL. No, they like the land, they want to stay on it, they want to develop it. I would like to have them have that right, if that is what they want to do.

Mr. HOSMER. I suggest perhaps you could educate them.

Thank you.

Mr. JOHNSON. There is one other matter in your reply there on power from the steamplant. I presume it would also be used to back up the firm contractors for users. Could it not?

Secretary UDALL. It could be, yes.

Mr. BURTON of Utah. Mr. Chairman, will you yield to me?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. BURTON of Utah. I would like to make the observation that does not necessarily need any comment unless somebody wants to comment on it. But we have done a lot of talking in the last few days about making the Colorado River "whole." It seems to me what we are really talking about on that is to make sure the lower basin gets 7.5 million acre-feet and still leaves the upper basin with a little over 6. "Period." "End quote."