

I talked to Frank Di Luzio and Frank is very, very confident. He is a scientist, himself, and I have great and high regard for his knowledge and ability. He tells me with all confidence that the price of water at the end of the project will be 22 to 25 cents for 1,000 gallons, and this is a tremendous, tremendous reduction from anything we have experienced heretofore.

I consider the Officer of Saline Water to be basically a research agency but I think that this is a proper role for the Department and at 22 to 25 cents, when industry takes over I know that with their skills they can bring the price of water down another 10 cents, perhaps.

Now, at 22 cents, you have water at \$72 an acre-foot and if I am informed correctly I believe that the Feather River project will bring water to southern California at a cost of \$80.

The CHAIRMAN. What are your feelings concerning better coordination between the various agencies of Government and private industry involved in this whole area of water pollution and salinity control? Needless to say, so many agencies of the Government are involved that it presents a formidable task if you look ahead.

I have specific reference, of course, to what is emerging now in the nuclear reactor field, the construction of nuclear powerplants, to provide electricity. Over half of the thermal plants that have been ordered this year are to be nuclear.

Do you have any comments about how we can better coordinate the various problems and difficulties that are within the scope of authority of many agencies? I think you have the prime responsibility, but there are a lot of departments involved in this.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I fear that at this particular moment I don't have any fresh ideas, but I certainly can sympathize with the inclination to criticize a structure and a superstructure and a bewilderment about where various responsibilities lie.

I would hope that, as soon as I can get my feet on the ground, if the Senate would deem me worthy of the President's nomination, to make a genuine and thorough investigation of these responsibilities, to make some effort to truly coordinate the responsibilities, so that one agency will know what another is doing; that there will not be an overlapping of responsibilities nor a failure of action on the part of any Federal agency when the interest of the Nation is at stake.

The CHAIRMAN. I have several other questions but I will defer so that my colleagues may also have an opportunity to ask questions.

Senator Montoya has arrived. I am sure Senator Montoya would like to make a statement with reference to the nomination.

Senator MONTOKA. Yes; I certainly would. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

I am delighted to have the chance to add my enthusiastic endorsement of Mr. Max Edwards for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water Pollution Control.

Not only is he a fellow New Mexican—an important point in his favor—but he is a fellow member of the New Mexico bar.

I have known Max Edwards since the early 1950's when I was Lieutenant Governor and he was a practicing attorney in my State. In those days, he was held in high esteem by all who worked with him and even by those who worked against him. In 1960 I had the privilege and pleasure of moving Max Edwards' admission to the Supreme Court of the United States.