

Mr. O'MEARA. In a 50-million-per-day first-in-kind distillation plant Senator, we would expect that we should be able to produce fresh water from sea water in the range of \$150 per acre-foot.

Senator FANNIN. That is double what they estimated back at the water symposium. Is that true?

Mr. O'MEARA. Yes, sir.

Senator FANNIN. Thank you.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Bellmon?

Senator BELLMON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your giving me a chance to participate, though I am not a member of the subcommittee. I will try to make my comments very brief.

Mr. Secretary, in reading the bills and listening to your testimony, I get the impression that the thrust of the Office of Saline Water is mostly toward the purification of sea water. Is this true?

Mr. SMITH. No; it is not true. The saline water program has a dual purpose. I come from the same kind of country that you do. If the attention of the Office of Saline Water were not also directed toward the improvement of the desalting techniques for the brackish underground and surface water, I do not think it would be doing its full chore. So we are going forward on the dual thrust of sea water as well as brackish water.

Senator BELLMON. Well, I notice in S. 716, there is a provision here for research and development operating expense of \$15 million or more, and then design, construction, acquisition of saline water conversion test beds and facilities. That, I suppose, is all sea water?

Mr. SMITH. I will ask the Director, Mr. O'Meara, to give you the breakdown between the two.

Mr. O'MEARA. No, sir. We are proposing, actually, more money for test beds and test facilities for brackish water plants in the fiscal year 1972 than we are for the sea water distillation plants.

Senator BELLMON. Now, there is an additional problem that I want to call to your attention that you may be working on.

Let me just ask the question this way. What is the Office of Saline Water doing in attempting to control or improve the stream flows where there is a high degree of natural pollution? As I am sure you are aware, much of the wells, the streams discharge large amounts of salts into the streams and makes the streamflows unusable for municipal or industrial purposes later on. Are you working in this field at all?

Mr. SMITH. Yes, the Office of Saline Water is working on that problem and is working in close collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation on that subject.

Senator BELLMON. Do you work at all with the Corps of Engineers?

Mr. O'MEARA. We have provided the Corps of Engineers with some technical information concerning the use of desalting technology to alleviate the salinity problems in the Arkansas-Red-White River basin.

Senator BELLMON. You are active, then, in the Arkansas River area?

Mr. O'MEARA. Only by providing technology. We are not in the field to do this kind of work.

Senator BELLMON. Is there some reason you are not active in the field?

Mr. O'MEARA. Yes, sir, we are charged by the Congress to be a research and development organization, to develop the technology so