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# CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

The Central Arizona Project is a scheme to bring water from an artificial lake called Havasu a distance of about 200 miles to the area about Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. Lake Havasu was created by the Federal Government building the Parker Dam on the Colorado River 155 miles downstream to the Boulder Dam about 1935.

There have been several bills introduced in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives about this Central Arizona Project. But your attention is directed to S.1004 introduced in the Senate in the 90th Congress 1st Session (1967) to show that this bill is a fraud to be perpetrated on the taxpayers of the U.S. primarily and then to lay the foundation for a fraud to be perpetrated on the residents of Phoenix, Tucson and adjoining cities.

To understand the problem of distributing the water from the Colorado River, a few simple facts must be known. In the months of June, July and August, the snow melts on the West slope of the Rocky Mountains. Before any dams were built, 75% of the water from the snow would run off in these 3 summer months into the Gulf of Lower California. But this entire region about the lower Colorado River (Nevada, California, and Arizona) is desert country with constant sunshine and warm climate all the year around.

So the farming interests wanted the water from the Colorado River so that they be able to grow the crops of vegetables particularly in the winter to be able to supply the East and the Midwest which have no growing season then. But the trouble was that if 75% of the water ran off in the months of June, July, and August, there would be only 25% of the water left for the other 9 months. In other words when the water would be needed most in the Winter, it was not available to grow the crops in the desert.

So the farming interests of Imperial Valley, Calif.(home of the author of the Newsletter) began the agitation to have the Boulder Dam built so that the water be stored and released when needed. So water became available all year. A number of auxiliary dams were built at different times for better control of the water storage and supply.

The Parker Dam is one of these auxiliary dams and the water impounded behind it is called Lake Havasu. On the West bank of this Lake, the Metropolitan Water District (consisting of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Riverside Counties, with their cities) built the Colorado River Aqueduct about 1935 and brought the Colorado River water westward to the coast of California a distance of about 200 miles.

The Metropolitan Water District paid for this aqueduct by selling bonds to get the money and paying interest on the bonds. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH FINANCING OR BUILDING THIS AQUEDUCT.

Arizona could have done the same thing by building an aqueduct from the East bank of Lake Havasu in 1935 and leading the water 200 miles to Phoenix and Tucson. But it did not do so because the Salt River Project around Phoenix which was built by the Federal Government got plenty of water from the Theodore Roosevelt Dam located East of Phoenix. Cities can get plenty of water from deep wells all over Arizona.

Now both the California and Arizona farming interests have put



out a lot of lies and propoganda to fool the Senators and Representatives from the Midwest and the East into thinking that these aqueducts are needed for the personal uses of people. THE TRUTH IS THAT WATER IS USED FOR FARMING MAINLY. Easterners and Midwesterners are fooled because in their areas, water is collected behind dams for the personal uses of people and the farming is done by the rainfall.

This can best be illustrated in Imperial Valley. The Federal Government built an auxiliary Imperial Dam for this area to draw off water by means of the All-American Canal. This farming area of 75,000 people and about 500,000 acres in cultivation uses 2.8 millions acre feet of water. The people use less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of the water.

By contrast, New York City with 7,500,000 people uses 1.5 million acre feet of water. So you can realize that Imperial Valley with 75,000 people uses almost twice the amount of water that New York City with 7.5 millions persons use. The explanation for this tremendous water usage is in the farming for desert land in cultivation for 12 months constantly uses 5 to 9 acre feet of water per acre yearly.

The Colorado Aqueduct of the Metropolitan Water District is also a fake in the use of the name Metropolitan for 70% of the water is used in farming. From 1909 to 1949, Los Angeles County was No. 1 in the nation in agricultural production. It still is in the first 10. The water for the people in th socalled Metropolitan Water District is really obtained from wells and for the City of Los Angeles from the Owens River ( up in mountains of Inyo & Mono Counties) by means of a separate aqueduct built in the 1915-1925 period.

The big farm interests have tremendous acreages in violation of the 160 acres limitation of the U.S. Reclamation Law. So they put out a bunch of lies that the water is going for the personal uses of the people because the population is increasing. But people use very little water whereas the desert in cultivation needs tremendous amounts.

In the Salt River Project, the U.S. Reclamation Law is not being enforced as regards the 160 acres limitation. President Theodore Roosevelt said when signing the law, " the money being spent is to build up the little man of the West so that no big man from the East or West can come in and monopolize the water and the land". The Theodore Roosevelt Dam for the Salt River Project was the first Reclamation facility built yet the big farm interests have prevented enforcement of the U.S. Reclamation Law.

The big landowners have lots of raw desert they now want to put into cultivation. So they started the lies flowing about the increase in population to disguise the fact that the water will be used for farming. If Arizona wants an aqueduct, let it do what the Metropolitan did--finance it and build it. Why should the taxpayers of the U.S. pay for it when a bunch of big landowners are going to be the only ones to profit from it? The bill S.1004 is a fraud to put the burden on the taxpayers of the U.S. for the benefit of a few.

The Salt River Project besides selling water also sells electricity which it gets mainly from the Federal Government. It is running an electricity swindle on the people of Phoenix and the adjoining cities whereby they pay high prices for electricity so that the Salt River Project can afford to sell the irrigation water to the big landowners at  $\frac{1}{4}$  the correct price. Bill S.1004 has a bunch of double talk in it whereby the Central Arizona Project is going to be tied up with an electricity generating and selling scheme which is just the foundation for another electricity swindle to be inflicted on the residents in the cities so that the big ranch interests can get the water way below cost. Arizona big farmers with the water will grow cotton for subsidies.

S.1004 is so worded that municipal and industrial users of the water will pay interest whereas the agriculture users do not. The whites will get leases on the Indian lands but at the same time the Indian lands will not pay. The Indians are also to be cheated. Many other frauds are in this bill. DOES SENATOR CARL HAYDEN BELIEVE THAT THE LITTLE PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE BENEFITTED BY HIS BILL?