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THE TRUTH ABOUT GRAND CANYON DAMS

The Colorado River Basin Projects Act(HR 4671) has essentially 3 important provisions:

1. Building of an aqueduct to bring water from the Parker Dam on the lower Colorado River(about 130 miles downstream from the Hoover Dam) to the Salt River Valley(Phoenix area) and then further South to the Casa Grande and Tucson areas. This will cost about $\frac{1}{2}$ billion.

2. Building of 2 new dams, the Hualapai and the Marble Canyon, at a cost of \$750 millions (1960 estimates) upstream from the Hoover Dam. These 2 dams are to be built for the purpose of making electricity.

3. A study of the possibilities of diverting water from the tributaries of the Snake River which normally empties into the Columbia River. This diverted water would be brought by an aqueduct South to flow into the Colorado River. Then this extra water could be used to create more electricity at the old dams (Hoover, Glen Canyon and Davis) and also be used at the proposed new dams Hualapai and Marble Canyon for the generation of electricity. Finally, the additional water from the Columbia River could be brought via the aqueduct starting at the Parker Dam to the Phoenix, Casa Grande and Tucson regions.

Now the newspapers have been full of the statements of the conservationists about the beauty of the Grand Canyon being spoiled by the proposed Hualapai and Marble Canyon Dams. This Newsletter is to show the swindles that are hidden in HR 4671. The Salt River Valley was originally developed in the early 1900's by the building of the Theodore Roosevelt Dam. By means of this dam, water was made available to the Salt River Valley so that irrigation farming could be done.

The President Theodore Roosevelt Dam was built under the auspices of the U.S. Reclamation Act of 1902. This Act had 2 important provisions:

1. The person to use the water for farming must be a bonafide resident of the land he farms(or live close by to it).

2. He can receive only enough water to farm 160 acres. A husband and wife would receive enough water to farm 320 acres.

It can be seen from this that the U.S. Reclamation Law forbids absentee landowners who would install other persons to farm for them or to lease the land to other persons to do the farming. This was the purpose of the U.S. Reclamation Law-to prevent monopoly of water and land where Federal Funds were spent to bring water to areas so that farming could be done.

President Theodore Roosevelt conceived and is the FATHER of the Reclamation Act of 1902. Here is what he actually said when he signed this Act, "every dollar is spent to build up the small man of the West and prevent the big man, East or West, coming in and monopolizing the water and the land". These actual words can leave no doubt as to what was intended by the U.S. Reclamation Law of 1902.

Yet here is what happened in the Salt River Valley. The President Theodore Roosevelt Dam is on the Salt River (East of Phoenix) and has nothing to do with the Colorado River. Big landowners or their agents do practically all the farming IN VIOLATION OF THE LIMITATION OF ONLY WATER TO FARM 160 ACRES. Much of the farming is done by absentee farm corporations which are really Californian and which operate in

several states. These big farmers direct a pressure group called the Salt River Valley Water Users Association. THERE HAS BEEN A RAPE OF THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAW IN THE SALT RIVER VALLEY. No little farmer or other person can raise his voice in protest in this area for he will suffer immediate economic reprisals.

So HR 4671 will magnify further the swindling of the little farmers of the Salt River Valley by this new aqueduct bringing more water to bring more acreage into cultivation. The big landowners have all this virgin land and the new aqueduct will increase the value of their land from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per acre if used for farming and much more where used for townsites. RECORDABLE CONTRACTS to sell all this land by the big landowners so that the land ownership conforms to the 160 acres limit will not be signed now. The big landowners with the additional water will be able to grow more cotton for which there is no market. This cotton will be stored in warehouses and the Federal Government will pay price supports to the big farmers. The little farmers are prevented from getting these cotton allotments and there will be further pressure to squeeze them out.

There are many Indian Reservations in Arizona but the Indians are going to be swindled out of the water. They are being forced at the present time to give long term leases to the whites who will get the water to farm Indian Lands. The Bruce Church Co. has a 6,000 acres lease for 25 years on Indian land near the Parker Dam. There are many others. A bill is going through Congress at this very moment where the Indians of the Papago Reservation near Casa Grande will be forced to give long term leases to the whites.

The pumping of water along this new aqueduct from the Parker Dam to the Salt River Valley, Casa Grande and Tucson, will require electricity. This is why the 2 new dams have been proposed to be built. But the pumping of the water does not require much electricity. The rest of the electricity will be sold to local public agencies which are in the power business. These local agencies sell the electricity to homeowners and business places at high prices. But to the big corporation farms it is sold at very low rates to pump water so that the big farms are subsidized by the homeowners, etc.

In the Imperial and Coachella Valleys of Calif. where the Government also built the ALL-AMERICAN CANAL, this type of electricity swindle has been thoroughly investigated. It was found that the big ranches were getting water at $\frac{1}{4}$ the correct cost whereas the great mass of citizens were being swindled out of \$14 millions yearly in excessive electricity bills to subsidize the large ranches.

Modern technology has made it unnecessary to build the Hualapai and Marble Canyon Dams as a source of electricity. The Arizona Public Service Co. has a steam electric generating power plant at a coal mine at Farmington, New Mexico. Electricity here is generated as cheaply (possibly even cheaper) than dams on the Colorado River. Southern California Edison Co. (Los Angeles) is also building a generating plant at this site in conjunction with other investor owned electric utilities to get the advantage of this cheap electricity. Steam electric generating plants at the site of a coal mine are MUCH CHEAPER to build than dams on the Colorado River. In addition, more and more electric generating plants can be built at the same site as the need arises. So there is sufficient electric power for Arizona because the coal deposits are tremendous at Farmington, New Mexico and also in various regions of Arizona itself.

The big farmowners just want the Federal Government to subsidize their electricity with the building of 2 new dams on the Colorado. Secretary of Interior Udall has already stated the Hualapai Dam can be omitted. BOTH CAN BE OMITTED WITH A BIG SAVING IN MONEY.

Diversion of water from the Snake River (branch of the Columbia) to the Colorado is questionable. Possible diversion downstream to the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia and leading the water to the Sacramento River in California and then to Los Angeles appears more feasible. Los Angeles can stop taking water from the Colorado so Arizona has more. Columbia River water can be sent via Los Angeles Aqueduct to Arizona.