

Ed W. Clark, veteran Colorado river commissioner, has advanced to the position of dean of the western states on river affairs, according to the Phoenix Republic, which paid him tribute during the recent conference on water matters in the Arizona capital. Clark is the oldest commissioner in point of service of any of the seven basin states, and has been one of Nevada's representatives at every conference since the Boulder dam project was formally launched at the famous Santa Fe conference in 1922 which was presided over by the then secretary of commerce, Herbert Hoover. Thru his long years of service, the Nevadan is probably one of the best informed men on Colorado river affairs in the west.

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And speaking of Boulder dam, you'll be interested in the comment of Rodney Dutcher, NEA's Washington correspondent, on a recent incident in which Secretary Ickes, big chief of the interior department, let forth several snorts and a few "Bah's" when government attorneys presented a brief in which the project was designated "Hoover Dam." You'll remember that one of the first things the secretary did when he took office, was to decree that this great structure should retain the traditional and colorful designation of "Boulder Dam" thereby scrapping, with one telling gesture, the attempt to change the name.

"Secretary Ickes swore softly as he read the government's brief in its Parker Dam injunction suit against the state of Arizona," Dutcher chronicles, continuing, "Read the brief and you'll see why. Some years ago a group of progressives in congress, led by Sen-

ators Hiram Johnson of California and Key Pittman of Nevada, won a long, grim fight against the 'power trust' for government construction of a huge power project on the Colorado river. They always referred to the project as Boulder Dam. Then a secretary of interior named Ray Lyman Wilbur, to their intense disgust, named the thing after a friend of his whom they heartily disliked. Wilbur designated it as 'Hoover Dam.'

"Most senators went right on calling it 'Boulder' and you could call it one thing or the other for quite a while until a change of administration occurred and Mr. Ickes, not long after he succeeded Wilbur, announced with grim satisfaction that it was going to be 'Boulder,' not 'Hoover.'

"But recently the governor of Arizona sent the state's army and navy—consisting of one bumboat on the Colorado—to drive federal engineers from their work on Parker Dam, a PWA project closely related to the larger development.

"And the federal government has just sued before the supreme court to enjoin Arizona from interference. In its brief, signed by Attorney General Cummings and Solicitor General Biggs, Ickes found in the enumeration of Parker Dam purposes:

"... reregulating the water discharged at Hoover (Boulder) Dam, in such manner as to enable more effective use of said Hoover (Boulder) Dam and for other public purposes. After which, the brief consistently refers to the dam as 'Hoover (Boulder) Dam.' If it had only said 'Boulder (Hoover) Dam' Ickes wouldn't be quite so sore."