

Fish Hatchery

Setup Muddled

10-4-35
Declaring that the fish hatchery for southern Nevada was badly confused because of the large number of applications for construction under various branches of the government, Senator Key Pittman today urged "those who do not know what is going on to leave it to those who do know, so that we may get somewhere."

In an interview with a representative of the Review-Journal, Senator Pittman said:

"What about the fish hatchery? I hear that an effort to build a fish hatchery at Kaolin in Muddy valley is being made. It can be built now, but when Boulder dam lake reaches its natural level Kaolin will be under thirty feet of water.

"There have been a number of supporters of the fish hatchery. None of them apparently knew where they wanted to build it or why they wanted to build it. These great public citizens wanted the state to build it without knowing where the state could get the money. Some suggested it should be built with a loan obtained from the reconstruction finance corporation. Others said it should be built by PWA on a 70 per cent, 30 per cent basis. A number of applications were filed. The departments all got confused.

"Finally two days before I left Washington I received a letter in reply to letters I had written stating that project number so and so, supposedly a fish hatchery, had been turned down on the ground that it would not furnish sufficient labor under the policy established by the president, and then after much telephoning to many of the departments it was discovered that the fish hatchery was already being constructed; that the city of Las Vegas had granted a tract of land in the artesian belt where there was one large artesian well; that Mr. Upman, state agent for WPA, had accepted the grant and had already sunk another well and opened an artesian flow of 500 gallons of water per minute; that he had already laid out the five connected ponds which would constitute the fish hatchery to supply the great Boulder dam lake with bass and trout.

"The project, however, had been disapproved by reason of the confusion of the number of applications, and a great political activity

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for publicity without knowledge or reason. Some of these great advocates do not know that Mr. Westbrook of PWA and others finally discovered that these ponds could all be made by hand labor and were within the policy laid down by the president, and that the money would be supplied.

"They are still adding confusion on confusion by urging another

project, that is the establishment of a new hatchery at Kaolin which will be thirty feet under water. The departments of the government are confused but not as badly confused as some of our advocates of a fish hatchery who live in Nevada. May I suggest that those who do not know what is going on to leave it to those who do know so that we may get somewhere."