

AMENDMENTS TO BONNEVILLE ACT APPEAR DOOMED

6-2-37
Upper Basin States Pro-
test Inclusion of Boul-
der Dam Revisions

WASHINGTON, June 2. —
(Special)—The Boulder dam
amendments to the Bonneville
project act appeared doomed
today as congressmen repre-
senting the upper basin states
appeared before the rivers and
harbors committee of the house
to protest against their inclu-
sion in the bill.

Their appearance followed a
conference yesterday which was
attended by the Utah, Colorado
and Wyoming congressional dele-
gations together with the attor-
neys-general of Wyoming and Col-
orado, Congressmen Thomas F.
Ford and Charles Colden of Cali-
fornia and Congressman J. G.
Scrugham of Nevada.

ATTORNEY GENERAL Gray
Mashburn of the latter state who
had been acting as spokesman,
was not present.

When the group met, Attorney-
General Byron G. Rodgers of
Colorado made a detailed state-
ment interpreting the Boulder
Dam act to mean that until power
and water revenues from Boulder
dam have fully compensated the
United States for the entire cost
of the project, plus 25 million
for flood control, not a dollar can
go into the upper river develop-
ment fund, nor be paid to Ne-
vada and Arizona.

Practically, his contention
means, that it will be 50 years,
at the present rate of repayment,
before a dollar will go into the
fund with which the upper re-
aches of the Colorado and its tribu-
taries are to be improved.

CALIFORNIA AGREED to this
interpretation as applied to the
fund for the development of the
upper basin, but insisted that
Arizona and Nevada will get their
money each year, beginning im-
mediately.

Inclining to accept Rodgers'
view, spokesmen for the upper
basin states maintained that the
sooner the government invest-
ment is repaid the sooner the
upper basin will be developed,
and they firmly declared their
opposition to any legislation that
will defer development of the
upper basin.

CALIFORNIA TOOK a new
tack Tuesday on the subject of
future power development.
Spokesmen for Los Angeles and
the metropolitan district said they
had arrived at the point where
they must decide whether to put
in an additional transmission line
to carry power from Boulder dam
to Los Angeles, or to turn to a
steam generating plant. When re-
minded that at their last confer-
ence they had expressed fear that
cheap power at Bonneville dam
might lure manufacturing and

industry from the Los Angeles
area to the Columbia river, tribu-
tary to Bonneville and Grand
Coulee dams, the Californians
failed to offer a valid excuse for
their change of front, but strongly
indicated that they intend either
to build a new power line or build
a modern steam generating plant,
for they said they must have
more power.

It has been rumored during the
hearings that Los Angeles, now
that it is assured all the water it
wants from Boulder dam, is los-
ing interest in Boulder dam pow-
er and is speculating on a steam
plant because it has been figured
by their engineers that steam
power will generate electricity
cheaper at Los Angeles than the
Boulder dam power, plus high
cost of transmission.

THE CALIFORNIANS, under
pressure, told the upper basin
representatives that they are now
ready to guarantee that they will
take more power from Boulder
dam if they can get some con-
cession in the matter of rates.

"If you are willing to guarantee
that and at the same time guar-
antee that a million dollars a
year of the Boulder dam earn-
ings shall go into the Colorado
river development fund, begin-
ning now, "I think we might
get together," Congressman Mur-
dock of Utah, spokesman for the
upper basin states declared.

INDICATIONS were that the
rivers and harbors committee of
the house would discard the
Boulder dam amendments to the
Bonneville act and allow the
former measure to shift for itself
on its merits.