

BONNEVILLE ACT PASSAGE KILLS BOULDER DAM RIDER

8-10-37 Pittman Denounces Upper Basin States' Senators for Action on Bill

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10— When the senate Monday passed the Bonneville power bill as it came from the house, without the Boulder dam rider, and without any attempt being made to attach the rider, Boulder dam legislation was abandoned for this session.

The Bonneville bill did not go through the senate, however, until Senator Pittman of Nevada, most active champion of the rider, had delivered a bitter, scathing speech, in which he denounced the delegations from the upper basin states for the attitude they have taken, and warned that he may bring this issue before congress at the next session, opening in January.

Senator Pittman condemned the upper basin senators for not accepting his offer to write into the rider a guarantee of \$420,000 a year for development of the upper river. He omitted to say, however, that immediately after that offer was submitted the California and Nevada senators had withdrawn from negotiations with the upper basin senators.

They had meantime requested Messrs. Scattergood and Carr of the Los Angeles bureau of power and light to carry on the negotiations for the lower states, and these latter gentlemen had quickly repudiated the Pittman offer. Substituting a tricky substitute that would have insured the upper basin a sum so insignificant that the senators from Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico refused to consider it for a moment.

Senator King of Utah, who sat close to Pittman as he spoke, was manifestly angered by the bitter remarks of the Nevadan, but inasmuch as Pittman had no intention of offering the rider as an amendment, he did not attempt an extended reply, merely voicing resentment of Pittman's "castigation" of the upper basin senators. Senator Hiram Johnson of California, who days ago expressed disgust with the way the Californians had resorted to chicanery, uttered a single sentence which could not be heard in the gallery, while Senator McAdoo of California contented himself with subscribing to everything Senator Pittman had to say.

That ended the fight over the Boulder dam rider, and the Bonneville bill was passed, sans rider.

There is no opportunity during what little remains of this session to get action on the Boulder dam rider, if presented as a separate bill. It could be offered as an amendment to the final deficiency bill, but would be subject to a point of order. If it is brought forward next session it probably will be as an independent bill, in which event it will be referred to the committees which had jurisdiction over the original Boulder dam bill.

Should it reappear in that or some other form, the upper basin will demand, as their price for concurrence, that the legislation be modified to guarantee the upper basin a fixed annual amount for development of the upper river, that amount not less than \$500,000.