

The program of legislation in connection with the operation of the Boulder dam reservation proposed by United States Senator Tasker L. Oddie, and outlined in other columns of this issue, will meet with the approval and approbation of all those who have followed the situation from the first.

It is almost unthinkable that this model government city at the Boulder dam site—a city now of some 3,000 souls, should be utterly lacking in school facilities. Yet here it is, in all its reality, with Las Vegas bearing the burden at a cost of some \$55,000 for the first year of construction. It is only right that an appropriation be made to provide for schools in the future, and that Las Vegas and Clark county be reimbursed for moneys already spent by the taxpayers of this section in order that the children within the reservation be not forced to suffer.

It is likewise unthinkable and decidedly un-American to deprive 3,000 citizens of this community of the right to vote, simply because they happen to be working within a government reservation. Every citizen domiciled within the confines of the reserve should be allowed to vote, and undoubtedly will be given that right by congress when the matter is brought to its attention.

There is no question in principle regarding the extension of Nevada tax and labor, safety and industrial insurance laws to the reservation. The government is without power in these matters, and lacking that power, should be willing to delegate it to the state. There is nothing right in a principle which would allow contractors, merchants or individuals to escape taxation because they are working in conjunction with a government project within a government reservation.

Why should the Six Companies be exempt from taxation because they are building Boulder dam any more than A. D. Drumm or Pat Cline should be exempt from taxation because they are building federal-aid highways—or the Plains Construction company because they are building a federal building? Why should John Jones, merchant, be relieved of paying taxes because he sells to the men who are building a federal enterprise, and is located within a pseudo-reservation while Dick Smith, twenty-three miles away, who is likewise serving the men who are building the same federal enterprise pays several hundred or thousand dollars a year for the support of the government.

Why should Sam Green, who owns an automobile, but who is working for the contractor who is building a federal project, be exempt from taxation on that automobile while Pete Black residing within the same state, and under the same government, has to pay forty or fifty dollars a year on that count?

The government has no laws regulating labor, safety and industrial insurance matters, but it is a settled principle that these laws are necessary and should be obeyed. Why should the contractors be exempt from all of these principles because they are building a project for the federal government?

These are questions which Senator Oddie wants answered, and questions which the citizens of Nevada would like answered—questions which go to the very foundation of things—for if the federal government can usurp the power of states in this fashion any time it chooses, a precedent will have been established which will be decidedly dangerous to the rights of every state in the union.

Secretary Wilbur suggests that any legislation be deferred until the suits now pending in the federal court are settled. Governor Fred B. Balzar writes the answer to that when he says: "If the hands of the states are to be tied by injunction pending hearings in court, appeals from decisions at the convenience of interested attorneys, awaiting judgment in the matter, one can be very sure that the entire Boulder Canyon project will be completed before a final decision is rendered by the courts."

And that is exactly what will happen, and what "interested attorneys" are planning on having happen. If legislation is needed, it is needed right now, and should be enacted as Senator Oddie demands—at the coming session of congress. That will settle the whole matter quickly and without undue delay. The suits now pending can go as to what has already taken place, and future action can be based on newly enacted legislation. It is hard to see where enactment of such legislation would affect any of the issues of the suits—it would merely make doubly certain the state of Nevada will be justly treated in the matter by settling definitely just what the law is.

Senator Oddie is on the right track.