

Police Power

By U. S. Legal Chief

Marshal and Deputies
Have No Obligations,
Power, Mitchell Rules.

CARSON CITY, Dec. 16. (U.P.)
—The attorney general of the United States has ruled that the state of Nevada has full police power and both civil and criminal jurisdiction in the Boulder dam area, it was revealed today.

Answering an inquiry concerning the powers and duties of the United States marshal and his deputies in Boulder City and dam area, Attorney General Mitchell declared it his opinion that such federal officers had no obligations or powers whatsoever in the area which is now involved in injunction proceedings brought by Six Companies, Inc., contractors for the giant project.

MITCHELL'S OFFICE further said no congressional act had been passed placing the region in question under federal administration, although it was likely Secretary of the Interior Wilbur might declare Boulder City a federal townsite, thus bringing it under governmental supervision exclusively.

The importance of this opinion assertedly may be considerable in connection with the pending injunction suit, and also regarding the state's suit to tax equipment of the

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NEVADA

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Six Companies stationed on what the state maintains is Nevada land.

NO OFFICIAL statement has been made to link Attorney General Mitchell's statement with the suit, according to official reports. State Attorney General Mashburn may, however, introduce the opinion at the hearing of the injunction suit in San Francisco, it is rumored.

State Inspector of Mines A. J. Stinson, discussing the injunction suit, has pointed out the favorable record made on the Nevada side of the dam project with respect to fatal injuries, as compared with the Arizona side, where no state supervision of working conditions has been in force. At the time the injunction suit was filed 12 men had been killed on the Arizona side, while only two received fatal injuries on the Nevada side, despite the fact virtually five times as many workers are employed on the Nevada side.

This fact, coupled with the possible introduction of the United States attorney general's ruling in the matter of police power is expected to aid materially in prosecution of the state's claims to the right of inspection of the mine tunnels.

STINSON PREDICTED that, although only four to five trucks are now in use in the tunnels under construction, as high as 30 to 40 might enter the tunnels after they have progressed any distance. This

would be a direct violation of the state laws prohibiting use of any gasoline propelled machinery underground, it is maintained.

"If one man, the secretary of the interior, can step in and make the Boulder dam region a federal reservation, there's nothing I can see to stop him from making the whole state a reservation if he so wishes," Stinson commented on the suit. Six Companies are understood to be basing their injunction suit on a claim the land involved is a federal reservation, and therefore not subject to state laws.

Stinson said he had received considerable cooperation from the federal bureau of mines in the case. The federal bureau has expressed disapproval of the use of gasoline driven machines underground, he declared.

HEARING of the injunction suit will be January 9, Saturday, in San Francisco before Federal Judge Norcross and two members of the Ninth district circuit court of appeals. January 16 the suit involving rights of the state and Clark county to tax Six Companies' property will be heard by Judge Norcross in Carson City.