

Davis Dam Highway

Need Is Stressed

Searchlight People Renew Demand for Action on the Searchlight-Bullshead Road

Dr. R. L. Fenlon and E. Middleton, representing the people of Searchlight and generally of the southern portion of Clark county, appeared before the Chamber of Commerce at its Tuesday meeting to make another plea for action to bring about construction of a highway connecting Searchlight and Las Vegas with Bullshead Canyon on the Colorado River, site of the Davis Dam.

It was pointed out by Dr. Fenlon that an investment of at least \$48,000,000 is about to be made in building another great dam on the Colorado River which is the boundary between Mohave county, Arizona, and Clark county, Nevada. That Arizona has already built a very passable highway connecting the dam site with Kingman and consequently practically all the preliminary business and hiring of men for the job and purchase of supplies goes to the Arizona business interests.

About a year ago the board of county commissioners of Clark county evinced considerable interest in the problem of connecting the dam site with Searchlight and Las Vegas. They put on some of the county road machinery and a crew of men and bladed a more or less passable dirt road from a point on the highway south of Searchlight, to the dam site. This road was not such as to be usable for ordinary business traffic and it was not approved by the state highway engineer because it has grades steeper than the six per cent grades considered practicable for state highways.

Dr. Middleton reported that he recently accompanied a party of engineers over the proposed route to the river and that the only thing which prevented the establishment of union labor hiring headquarters on the Nevada side of the river is the absence of a connecting highway.

Frank Gusewelle declared that the Searchlight people have been demanding a road to Bullshead Canyon for years. He said that the expenditure of \$48,000,000 on the Davis dam project means a tremendous amount of money, perhaps 75 per cent of the whole, would be spent in Clark county if the site of the work is made accessible by a highway on this side of the river. Mr. Middleton commented in reply by saying that the top men connected with the job say:

"Get a road and you will get the business. The people of Nevada are asleep."

Jim Cashman declared that every organization in Las Vegas should get busy and inform the Nevada delegation in congress of the necessity of a highway to the dam site.

The matter was referred to Chamber of Commerce committee on Highways with the request that they take whatever action is necessary.