

Arizona Contract For River Water Awaits Approval

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 18 (UP)

Governor Sidney P. Osborn revealed today that Arizona's proposed contract for 2,800,000 acre-feet annually of Colorado river water, plus half the surplus, is ready for Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes' approval.

Five of the other six basin states — New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming — have had their final contract approved, the governor said. California alone is fighting the move, aided by a small group of Arizonans who have used the river as a political football for many years.

California has bitterly fought the efforts of Arizona to obtain the contract, declaring this state should be required to deduct water from the Salt and Gila rivers from its share of Colorado water.

Transcripts of the various hearings held by a committee of 14 representing seven basin states, along with the proposed Arizona contract which has the approval of the U. S. bureau of reclamation, will be forwarded to Ickes by Judge Clifford H. Stone, Denver, chairman of the committee.