

Ellinwood And Ross Retained By Supervisors

To Give Opinion On County's Right To Boulder Money

After a conference with a committee from the Mohave county chamber of commerce and other citizens, the county board of supervisors last Saturday instructed County Attorney Carl Hammond to secure the services of Ellinwood and Ross, prominent attorneys of the state, to render for the county an opinion on the question of Mohave county's rights in the \$300,000 to be paid annually by the federal government in lieu of taxes resulting from the building of Boulder dam.

Mohave county lays claim to a just portion of this amount as the property for which this lieu tax money is paid is situated in Mohave county and if such improvements on the Colorado river had been made by private capital, Mohave county would have been the legal taxing agent, and would have collected the taxes, retaining its portion of such taxes and remitting the balance to the state treasury.

If the money so paid by the federal government in lieu of taxes should be paid to others than the Mohave county treasury and ex-officio tax collector, then Mohave county would quite certainly obtain only a small portion of it. The authority given the county attorney by this action of the board of supervisors will give to the board of supervisors the legal information they desire as to the lawful solution of the situation.

Future action of the supervisors will be controlled by the opinion rendered, and if such legal opinion indicates that Mohave county has a right to its portions of such money, the opinion will also make clear the proper methods of legal processes whereby it can obtain its portions of the money as paid by the federal government. The annual payment of \$300,000 for a period of fifty years, the amortization period of the dam, means \$15,000,000 will be paid into the county during the half century period, and, according to the average division of other taxes between the county and the state during years past, at least one-half this amount, or \$7,500,000, will be received and passed to the treasury of Mohave county. The receipt of this amount by the county over a period of fifty years would do much to lessen tax rates during

that period. If Mohave county has any rights to this portion of the lieu tax money paid, the board of supervisors do not intend to overlook the county's rights and this action is to protect the taxpayers of the county.