

6 STATES FIGHT ARIZONA ATTEMPT TO BLOCK PROJECT

Secretary Wilbur Leads Court Battle In Effort To Speed Boulder Dam Work

Washington, March 10 (U.P.)—The six Colorado river basin states and Secretary of the Interior, Wilbur, marshalled their legal forces in the supreme court Monday to challenge Arizona's right to press a lawsuit seeking to forestall the building of Boulder Dam.

They are prepared to ask the court to dismiss the action as being without any basis at law.

Arizona, forming 43 per cent of the Colorado river basin and furnishing 30 per cent of the waters which will go to turn the wheels of the southwest's giant power project, brought suit to prohibit construction of the dam early in October.

She charged that her rights were being invaded by the project. Since she would not have her rightful share of the benefits accruing from the work.

In the normal course of procedure in a supreme court between states, a referee or commissioner would have been appointed to take testimony and report his findings on the merits of the controversy.

This course, however, is a long and tedious process. Years may elapse before the full merits of the case can be decided.

Work Progresses

Meanwhile work is going ahead on the dam. A model city for the workers is being laid out. A railroad line is being built to the property. Should it eventually develop that Arizona is in the right and the project based on illegal legislation, as is contended, the results might prove disastrous.

In order, if possible, to forestall this possibility and obtain a ruling on the validity of the Santa Fe compact between them on the Swing-Johnson bill, which authorized the project, the six defendant states moved early in January to dismiss the suit.

Since the principal point of issue raised by Arizona rests on the validity of these two measures, a determination of the motion to dismiss will probably settle the case presented in the supreme court action.

The defendant states are California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming.