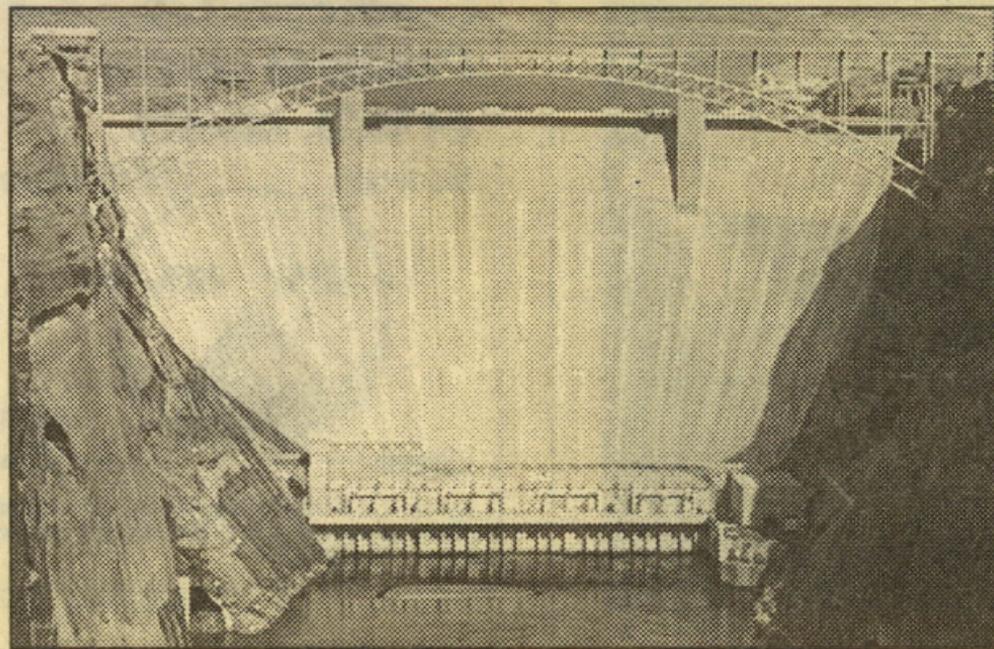


# Colorado River's might to be unleashed today

USA  
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By Jack Dempsey

**In Page, Ariz.:** The Glen Canyon Dam opens today to flood the lower region of the Colorado River. The goal: restore environmental balance to the Grand Canyon.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt was about to cause a flood — and he couldn't have been happier. Babbitt was to open valves at the base of 710-foot Glen Canyon Dam today at 6:15 a.m. MT in an attempt to mimic the Colorado River's spring floods that once raged annually before the dam plugged it in 1963. Scientists hope that flood will do what those natural floods did: cleanse the water, restore silt and sand to river beds, and form new spawning grounds for fish.