

# BOULDER DAM'S CONTRACTS TO BE LET TODAY

## Secretary Wilbur Then Will Fight Project's Foes in Arizona Court

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WASHINGTON, D. C., March 9.—Interior Secretary Wilbur today was to let the contract for the building of Boulder Dam on the Colorado river. It will be the largest ever let by the government.

At the same time, he and the representatives of six western states will be called before the U. S. Supreme court to defend themselves against the suit of Arizona to halt construction.

The contract will total \$48,890,999 and will be for building a cofferdam, boring four crest diverting tunnels through granite, erecting the highest dam in the world. Work, unless halted by Arizona's winning her suit, will begin in April.

Arizona has called to court Secretary Wilbur and six states of the Colorado river basin, California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming.

Arizona's attorney general, K. Berry Peterson, with two legal attorneys, Clifton Mathews and Dean Acheson, were to argue that the Boulder Dam act is unconstitutional in that under it the federal government invades a state and, with no justification because of navigation or reclamation, takes water belonging to that state "thereby causing great and irreparable injury to the state and its inhabitants."

The crux of the contest is whether the Colorado is a navigable stream. Solicitor Thomas D. Thatcher, representing Wilbur and his six associates representing the six defendant states, argue that the stream is navigable, that even were it not the government has the right to control flood waters to protect its people, that Arizona is in no way harmed by the project but benefitted.