

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

This Boulder Canyon dam project is moving so rapidly at the moment that before we know it Clark county will be plunged into this greatest period of activity and the most notable engineering project of the present generation will be well under way. This has been said before, but is worth repeating, for after all the delays and disappointments over a period of years it is hard for Las Vegas to realize that the contract has been awarded, the contractor on the "big job" is here ready to go to work, that crews are being assembled and equipment shipped in.

For regardless of the fact that we have all known this day was due to come "some day," to actually realize that it's here NOW, after all these years of waiting is almost beyond the capacity of most of us. Some, however, fully cognizant of the great giant that's about to be turned loose to develop this particular section of the country, are moving along quietly but soundly, and are preparing to do their share of the business which will naturally accompany this construction period. Others, wandering around in a daze, wondering what it's all about, will awaken some one of these days to find themselves bringing up the rear of the prosperity parade which is about to start, failing utterly to take advantage of the unbeatable position Las Vegas occupies with respect to the great project after spending the best years of their lives here awaiting just this event.

For construction of Boulder canyon dam twenty seven miles from this city will not help those who are unwilling or incapable of helping themselves. Those who are on their toes, following every development carefully and fully protecting their own interests or their own particular product, have nothing to fear from competition, and will find themselves in the front rank of the onward march. The project will afford the acid test of the business ability and acumen of those now in business here, and will be the means of developing many from small town operators into men who can hold their own in any competition, and incidentally bringing plenty of the fruits of the construction millions into their own coffers.

If the experience with the Letourneau and Lewis Construction companies, now at work on their particular portions of the great project is any criterion, and there is no reason to believe it is not, Las Vegas will participate in this construction work to a far greater degree than has been popularly supposed. For both of these companies are making this city the virtual supply point for all things not shipped in direct. This extends even to some units of equip-

ment which have been purchased thru local dealers. Both concerns are spreading considerable actual cash about the community in addition to the payroll, and their policy in this regard has been reflected directly in a decidedly stimulating manner in every line of business. This is just a marker to what is to come, and should give Las Vegas an exceptionally good basis upon which to compute the trend of things when the "big job" gets under way.

We cannot impress too strongly on the people of this community that the benefits secured from this construction will be in direct proportion to the amount of energy and thought given by each individual to making his particular business fit the picture that's now taking actual shape. For years we've rocked along in a small town fashion, with little in the way of competition offered — now, overnight, we're going to be forced to throw 'er into high to keep up with the parade. Don't delay too long, for the parade might go by without you.

While the details of the Los Angeles "girl mart" are of a very sensational nature, and it's hard for many to understand that such a thing has actually been going on, involving young girls of tender years, starting them on the primrose path that leads to the gutter, such things have been going on in big cities for years without end. For there seems to be a demand for such service among certain wealthy men who are in a position to buy anything with a price tag thereon. The only thing that's new, is the fact that the district attorney's office in Los Angeles is moved to do something about it, and send those who traffic in the young womanhood of the nation, to state's prison where they belong.

For there's nothing more horrible than to find this ring of leading citizens praying upon high school girls when instead they should be protecting them from just the thing they're luring them into. Mothers who are worried for fear their daughters may be drawn into some similar sort of net can quiet their fears, however, if they are real mothers. For girls can't take week-end trips to Agua Caliente, Tia Juana or San Diego without their parents knowing they're gone, if they are the right kind of parents. It all comes back to the interest mothers and fathers take in their children—for every girl that fell into the Los Angeles "slave market," you'll find parents who for some reason have not given their children the proper attention, and who didn't worry about where they might be so long as they showed up at home two or three times a week.