

# DAM CONTRACT TO BE GIVEN TODAY

## Wilbur to Use His "Important Pen" at Ceremony At 10 O'Clock

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Secretary Wilbur tomorrow will award the contract for constructing the gigantic Hoover Dam power plant and appurtenances but actual signing of the contract will be delayed several days.

Wilbur will use what he calls his "important pen" in a ceremony set for 10 a. m. He used the pen to sign the Kettleman Hills oil field unit operation agreement and other major contracts entered into by the Interior Department.

Senator Johnson and Representative Swing of California, authors of the bill under which the \$165,000,000 project is being built, will witness the acceptance of the low bid.

Reclamation Commissioner Mead and other officials of the Interior Department will be present. It is expected the \$48,890,995 offer of the Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco, will be officially accepted and a contract drawn with that company.

### To Post \$5,000,000 Bond

The contract will be sent to the Denver office of the Reclamation Service, thence to the company for acceptance. The company will be required to post a \$5,000,000 bond guaranteeing completion of construction.

When the bidder has accepted the contract, and posted the bond, it will be returned to Denver and then to Washington to be officially approved by Wilbur.

Recognition of the low bid is tantamount to awarding the contract. Interior Department officials said that when Wilbur does this, the company will be notified to proceed with construction, although the contract itself will not be in effect.

Under the terms of specification for the dam and adjoining works, the contracting company will be required to start construction within 30 days after being given notice.

## Argument Ended

Oral argument in the attempt to throw out of the supreme court Arizona's challenge of the validity of the Boulder Canyon Act ended today with counsel for that state occupying most of the time.

Argument advanced for Secretary Wilbur and the States of California, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Nevada that the suit be dismissed was presented yesterday.

Clifton Mathews counsel for Arizona, emphasized the alleged injustice and inequity of the Act of Congress and the compact from the viewpoint of that state, asserting it would deprive Arizona of all water in the river unless it was willing to join the compact of the other six states.

Assailing the validity of the act for the construction of the dam, Arizona's lawyers insisted that Congress as a last thought in the hope of making the act valid had declared it was for the purpose of promoting navigation. The Colorado River never was navigable, they asserted, and it would not contribute to the navigation of any stream to withdraw one half of its flow for irrigation and power purposes.

There could be no question of the right of Arizona to appeal at this time to the supreme court, they contended, to save its water to which it was entitled.

Arizona counsel criticized plans for the diversion of water to Imperial Valley, Los Angeles, and Lower California, saying it proposed liberal distribution to those localities without cost, while Arizona to obtain any must pay.

Solicitor General Thatcher closed the argument. He said the court could not go behind the declared purpose of Congress and must interpret the Hoover Dam Act as intending to aid navigation.