

Entitled To Be Suspicious

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Just why there is any necessity for secrecy in the dealings of state officials with the federal government in connection with ironing out of the rights of various parties connected with the Boulder Dam reservation, is hard to fathom. Especially when that secrecy means that Las Vegas and Clark county are to be kept entirely in the dark, when they are far more vitally concerned than all the rest of the state put together.

Both Governor Balzar and Attorney-General Mashburn are making a serious mistake when they insist on keeping these matters sub rosa, especially when the negotiations have reached the point where a bill, including what those officials believed should be incorporated in a law governing administration of the so-called Boulder reservation, has been forwarded to Washington for consideration by Congress.

These state officials, in declining to reveal the text of the bill, declared they "preferred to await developments in Washington before making public its contents."

Just who gave these officials the right to conduct secret negotiations with the federal government is not clear. This secrecy was protested by Clark county leaders several weeks ago, and these protests set forth the reason that of all the state this section is most vitally concerned. The actions of public officials in matters of such vast importance as this, most certainly should come under the scrutiny of those most affected before it is too late to protest unsatisfactory terms tentatively arrived at.

Clark county has had plenty of experience with "secret" legislation, both in Washington and Carson City. That experience has been universally unsatisfactory. When public affairs are handled "in secret" there can be only one reason and that is that there's something which will not stand the close scrutiny of the public gaze. In this particular instance there are two possible explanations, both unsatisfactory. One is that state officials are not conforming to the ideas of the rank and file of the people of the state in the demands made, and the other is that being election year, with a president, United States senator and congressman all coming up for reelection and all republicans, an effort is being made to cover up any lack of enthusiasm on the part of these individuals for Nevada's rights in this connection.

The people of the state, and particularly of Clark County have a right to know just what these secret negotiations are all about, and just what stand their public officials are taking in connection with the Boulder dam reservation. There have been many ugly rumors afloat concerning the manner in which the public officials have handled many matters in connection with the Boulder dam construction, and the governor and attorney-general by insisting on a policy of complete secrecy, have lent caste to these rumors no matter how groundless they may be in actual fact.

It will stand Las Vegas and Clark county in good stead to follow thru on this proposition, lest we awaken too late to find something else slipped out from under our very noses—this time with the cooperation (innocent though it may be) of ill-informed state officials.