

NEVADA'S RIGHT AT DAM IS HIT BY WILBUR

4/25/32

Secretary's Bill, in Reply
to State's Act, Direct
Slap at Nevada

NO RIGHT TO TAX

Bitter Battle in Congress
Looms as Interior Head
Bows His Neck

WASHINGTON, April 25 (Special).—Legal establishment of Boulder City as a government town, with its own "justice court" presided over by a United States commissioner, recognition only of the jurisdiction of the federal courts, refusal to recognize Nevada mining statutes, refusal to recognize the right of the state of Nevada to tax property within the reservation to be created by congressional act, but recognition of the right of residents of the reservation to vote within the state of Nevada, is proposed in the counter bill presented to congress by Secretary Ray Lyman Wilbur of the interior department.

The bill, Secretary Wilbur's answer to the Nevada bill introduced some weeks ago, indicates that the interior department will have none of Nevada's ideas of tax collections, courts, or safety laws, and presages a bitter battle in congress over the entire affair.

AS A RESULT, indications today were that an impasse had been reached which probably will not be broken in time to get action this session, on the proposed bill settling various controversial questions arising out of the government's attempt to control the construction area.

The secretary's measure, minus several provisions considered of vital importance to Nevada, was being studied by Senators Oddie and Pittman today with a view of possibly effecting a compromise.

The interior department head has rejected the provisions of the Oddie bill to extend the Nevada mining laws to the Boulder dam area.

"IF THESE LAWS were enforced they would radically alter methods of excavation of the large diversion tunnels and would materially increase the cost of them," Secretary Wilbur wrote in a formal report.

In the specially prepared measure, which has been submitted to the Nevada congressmen, the department provides voting powers for residents of the area, and sets up a United States commissioner to have charge over enforcement of criminal laws on the reservation. The officer is to be appointed from the force of the reclamation bureau and would not be an additional expense to the government.

THE DEPARTMENTAL bill also states that violation of rules promulgated by the interior department for the Boulder dam reservation shall be considered a misdemeanor, with an attached penalty of \$500 fine, six months imprisonment, or both. These rules would affect health and safety regulations.

Senator Oddie, who drafted the senate measure which was rejected by Secretary Wilbur, indicated today he did not feel this latter provision would meet the needs of the situation. He prefers the opera-

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Nevada's Right

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tion of the Nevada safety mining laws.

WILBUR POINTED out in his report that litigation is now pending in federal court to determine the operation of Nevada mining and tax laws on the reservation. He has objected to application of these laws to Boulder dam.