

WILBUR ORDERS ACCEPTANCE OF HOOVER DAM BID

Six Companies, Inc., San Francisco, Awarded Contract, Ready to Start.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—(AP)—Secretary Wilbur, by a stroke of the pen, set in motion today the activities for actual construction of the Hoover dam and power plant, key parts of the \$160,000,000 Boulder canyon project which will reclaim millions of acres in the arid valley of the Colorado river.

Wilbur authorized award of the contract for building the dam and power system, to cost finally approximately \$109,000,000, to the Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco, a combination of western construction companies, at \$48,890,995.

To speed up getting the dam under way, Reclamation Commissioner Mead immediately telegraphed the Denver office to draw the contract. When signed, the company will post a \$5,000,000 surety bond guaranteeing completion in the allotted six and one-half years or paying a penalty of \$3,000 daily for delay.

Word came from the company it is ready to go when told to start. Preliminary activities, it is expected, will be well under way before the contract is signed, approved and in force. Specifications require construction be started within 30 days from receipt of notice.