

REFUSES TO DEAL WITH SECRETARY AFTER RECEIVING AIDE'S ANSWER

Will Take Matter Up With
Irrigation Committee
On Arrival Here

J. M. DIXON ANSWERS

Declares Nevada Senator
Is Sadly Misinformed
On Department Policy

Throwing down the gauntlet to Secretary Ray Lyman Wilbur, United States Senator Tasker L. Oddie today declared "I will make no further effort to secure justice and fair dealing from you, and will bring the matters direct to the senate committee on irrigation and reclamation when it reaches here."

This statement was made in a wire to J. M. Dixon, acting secretary, and was in reply to a wire received earlier in the day by the Nevada senator answering his charges of "that policies were being pursued on the Boulder dam contract which are unbusinesslike, uneconomic, unwise and wrong."

THE DIXON wire, published below in full, brought the following answer from Senator Oddie late this afternoon:

"Your wire of today in answer to my wire of yesterday to the secretary of the interior received. It is evident from your wire that you are sadly misinformed regarding matters contained in my wire to Secretary Wilbur and that you are personally ignorant in regard to conditions existing here and that you have failed to read my wire correctly, or to understand it, or else you are evading. Consequently I will make no further effort to secure justice and fair dealing from you and will bring the matters direct to the senate committee on irrigation and reclamation when it reaches here."

TASKER L. ODDIE

Dixon's telegram said: "Replying to your telegram of August 19, while I am glad to know of your thorough approval of living conditions and quality of food furnished workers at Hoover dam by the contractors I regret that you have been seriously misinformed on other matters you mention.

"First—The work is not on a 30-hour week as you state, but is on a full time basis.

"Second—The average wage is over \$5.50 per day.

"Third—No workers are required to take scrip. To the contrary, wages are paid monthly in cash and when taking scrip workers do so at their own election and generally because they wish credit in advance in this manner.

"Fourth—A large percentage employed are married, live in their own homes and are unaffected by messhall rates.

"Fifth—Instead of workers being drained of all cash by living costs, several hundred thousand dollars have gone steadily into postal savings from Boulder City.

"Sixth—All workers are free to

(Continued to Page Two)

8-20-32 2 OF 4

Refuses to Deal

X (Continued From Page One)

buy wherever they please, including other stores operated by government lessees.

"Seventh—Prices at Boulder City are not exorbitant, but, to the contrary, Las Vegas citizens have heretofore objected that Boulder City would draw trade from Las Vegas.

"Eighth—When and if it becomes necessary to use the Wagner relief bill appropriation the 30-hour week stipulation therein was legislated by congress and the department must comply, but no part of this money is being used and it has no effect on wages or hours of labor.

"Ninth—The question of taxation is pending in the courts and will be determined there.

"Tenth—The department has repeatedly urged legislation making clear the right to vote within the reservation and cannot without such legislation assist in adjusting the poll tax controversy between Clark county and the contractor.

"Eleventh—The department will, as always, be pleased to cooperate with the senate irrigation committee in bringing to attention all the facts about this great project.

"Your interest is appreciated and it is regretted that you have been misinformed."

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 20. (UP)—Alan MacDonald, director of Six Companies Inc., Boulder dam builders, today declared the charges made yesterday by Senator Oddie of Nevada in a wire to Secretary Wilbur of the interior department, came as a complete surprise to him.

"A COMMITTEE of congressmen looked over the whole works sometime ago and gave us the highest recommendations," he said.

"We are paying our men the highest wages in the country for similar work—higher than men employed there by the federal gov-

ernment," he continued. "Their housing conditions are the best in the country. They have houses there that are artificially cooled during the hot season. We feed and house them for a dollar sixty five cents per day."

"**THEY ARE** paid in cash twice a month," he declared. "In between, if they want advances they receive scrip to keep the money from going to other towns. The scrip is cashed at its face value," he concluded.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20. (UP)—Charges by Senator Oddie of Nevada that Six Companies Inc. builders of the Hoover dam, are causing unfair competition for Boulder City and Las Vegas merchants, are being investigated by the interior department.

A TELEGRAM from the senator saying the contractors are paying wages in scrip, which can be used at face value for merchandise only at the company store was received by the department and turned over to the reclamation bureau for investigation.