

MISINFORMATION?

WE HAVE two parties to the Senator Oddie-Six Companies controversy crying "misinformed" at each other. Acting Secretary of the Interior Joseph M. Dixon, replying to Senator Oddie's request for action on some of the complaints which have been made, says the senator is "misinformed." The senator, in reply, assures the acting secretary that he is "misinformed." And there we are—for the moment.

Nevertheless we are perfectly aware that there have been many thousands of dollars worth of so-called "scrip" issued to Hoover dam workers and that such scrip is not redeemed at par for cash. It is designed to be used only at the company store. If other independent merchants in Boulder City or Las Vegas accept this scrip in large or small amounts, they must suffer serious loss in the effort to get their money out of it. Either they must sell it at a considerable discount to those who can use it to purchase supplies at the company store, or themselves must use it to buy at the company store.

It is hardly in accord with the straightforward relations which should exist between the Interior department and the people for the acting secretary to say that the workers "are not required to take scrip. All workers are free to buy wherever they please, including other stores operated by government lessees."

The law of necessity compels them to ask part of their month's pay as soon as they have anything coming. They can get neither money nor credit except through the acceptance of this scrip. And they can use it under the rules of the company only in the company store.

The use of the scrip is primarily an accommodation to the worker who needs part of his wages before payday. For such a purpose it is justified. And, because it is put out at full face value, it should be redeemed in the same manner.