

The Paramount Issue

One of the most important considerations before the voters of Clark county when they go to the polls next Tuesday to make their choice for the various offices to be filled, should be the four men who are to serve the county in the coming session of the state legislature as members of the assembly.

Never before in the history of this county has so much depended on the group of legislators sent to Carson City to represent this county.

The entire future of southern Nevada is tied up irrevocably in the power allocated to this state from the Boulder Canyon project upon its completion. Under the present setup, Nevada will have for use within the state, 118,000 horsepower of electrical energy. That power will, if available at cost as was intended when originally allocated, be the cheapest power in the world, and means extensive development.

Two analyses of power development are pertinent to the case at hand. First, reputable engineers have reached a population figure concerning the increase to be expected in the region of a cheap power development, of one person to every horsepower of electrical energy. If Nevada can put her 118,000 horsepower to work within the confines of this state, that means an increase in population of 118,000 persons, as a result of the industries established.

The figure seems beyond the realms of probability, and maybe it is large. But if the new development brings only half that number, it is still of vast importance to this district—not only to Las Vegas, but the entire county. Agricultural districts because of the increased market for their products, without heavy freight rates. Mineral areas because the development will be in their very midst.

The second thought of importance is that in all previous power developments, the industries have come to the cheap power, and development has been close by the power houses. The power has NOT been carried several hundreds of miles to the industries themselves. Eminent engineers have insisted thruout the entire history of the Boulder Canyon project that most of the industrial development would come within a radius of fifty or a hundred miles of the power houses.

But there's an "IF" connected with both analyses of the situation. And that "if" has to do with the cost of the power to those industries. In bidding for this development, Southern Nevada is in open competition with Los Angeles. The southern California metropolis has long anticipated another million people as a result of the Boulder dam development, and she is prepared to battle every inch of the way to prevent any encroachment on that dream.

If some way can be devised to take Nevada's power away or to increase the cost of Nevada's power to a point where it is as high or higher than the delivered price in Los Angeles, then all hope for development in this area is definitely off. For the delivered price of the power in Los Angeles will still be the cheapest in the world, and will attract industry regardless. But if southern Nevada can offer that power at a substantially cheaper figure, then there is no chance but what a vast development will take place in this area—a development which will exceed the fondest dreams of even the most imaginative—a development that will reward many times all who have staked their all on Las Vegas and southern Nevada and who have as yet failed to materially realize on the investment.

There are several ways Nevada's program in this connection can be undermined. First the power allocated may be stolen outright thru some sort of a maneuver such as the one attempted at the last session of the state legislature. Or a measure might be slipped by tacking a profit on the sale of the power which would be sufficient to wipe out the margin in price which now favors southern Nevada and is destined to prove the determining factor in industrial development unless it is materially altered.