

HOOVER DAM AGAIN

The Times is in receipt of a letter from Secretary of the Interior Ickes in regard to the Hoover-Boulder Dam controversy, in which Mr. Ickes betrays the fact that some one has given him a lot of misinformation. Mr. Ickes says, in justification of his dropping the name "Hoover Dam," that Congress, when given opportunity to enact formal legislation accepting Hoover Dam as the name of the structure, "refused" to do so. This is not the fact. Such a bill was introduced, but never came before Congress and was not even considered in committee, because of the custom of having dam names bestowed by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Ickes also says that the name Coolidge Dam was specifically authorized by Congress. The fact is the Gila River project was named Coolidge Dam by the Secretary of the Interior before Congress legislated on the subject.

As for Congressional confirmation of the name Hoover Dam, which Mr. Ickes says does not exist, he may find it enlightening to consult the Interior Department appropriation bill for the year ending June 30, 1933, which on Page 30 carries this language: "Boulder Canyon Project: For the continuation of construction of Hoover Dam and incidental works in the main stream of the Colorado River at Black Canyon," etc.

Neither Roosevelt Dam nor Wilson Dam was named by Congress, Mr. Ickes admits. He says, however, that Wilson Dam was never known by any other name, in which he is mistaken, since it has been known as Muscle Shoals Dam both before and since.

Mr. Ickes concludes with the declaration that Senator Johnson had nothing to do with the attempted change from Hoover to Boulder Dam. If he is no more accurate in this than in most other assertions in his letter, most people will continue to debit Johnson with this typically Johnsonian performance.