

Wilbur Declares Government Wants To Save Morals of Project Folks

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27. (AP) Secretary Wilbur today wrote Senator Oddie, that in safeguarding the welfare of workers on the Boulder canyon dam project it had been necessary "because of the Nevada laws and customs, to fight off the bootlegger, the prostitute and the gambler."

The secretary was advocating that the Boulder City area be made a national reservation. Oddie has opposed the project.

"Evidently you have not understood just what we have been trying to do at Boulder City and in the surrounding area," said Wilbur's letter. Oddie yesterday argued that the proposal was designed to save the Hoover dam builders from paying \$100,000 annually in taxes to the state.

"The federal government must accept full responsibility for this construction town," Wilbur's letter said. "We have endeavored to make it clean, decent and a wholesome place for American families of small means.

"We have maintained the reservation with care, not only to safeguard the welfare of the workers on the job, but it has also been necessary for us, because of the Nevada laws and customs, to fight off the bootlegger, the prostitute and the gambler.

"Judging by what is going on in other parts of Nevada without our special effort, not only would the bootlegger and the prostitute and the gambler be admitted to our construction city, but the costs of the project would be increased and the authorities of the federal government would have to accept responsibility for conditions that, to say the least, would be undesirable and unwholesome.

"All other question are of secondary consideration in a matter of this kind having to do with human welfare and with the dignity of the federal government," Wilbur's letter said.

Secretary Wilbur also telegraphed Governor Moore of Arizona that in view of Arizona's decision to take her Hoover dam water requests to court, it seemed inadvisable to continue negotiations with the state.

Wilbur's telegram said:

"I regret that our efforts to make possible for Arizona a settlement of a substantial part of the Colorado river water question have apparently not been understood.

"Your advices supplemented by those of Commissioner Ross indicate that the state plans litigation even though a water contract is made with the United States.

"As he purpose of the proposed contract was to provide peaceful assurance of a large amount of water from Hoover dam to Arizona without necessity for litigation it appears that Arizona's determination to litigate regardless of execution of the water contract with us makes further negotiations inadvisable.

"We were also desirous of assuring adequate water supplies at a low cost of Indian lands accessible from the dam.

"I have no desire to press upon you any program and shall let the regulations of February 7 with their proposal of a contract stand in their present form."