

Why The Delay?

9/12/55
The announcement today that Six Companies Incorporated and Babcock-Wilcox, Boulder Dam contracting firms, are prepared to underwrite the cost of operating the Boulder City schools until such a time as the regular state and county apportionments are available, puts the situation directly up to W. W. Anderson, state superintendent of public instruction.

Whether the 700 children in the Boulder City area are to be afforded satisfactory facilities for the next three months, depends entirely on whether or not the state superintendent sticks to his original determination to "sit tight" until Six Companies taxes are actually paid, which event is scheduled to take place about December first.

It is unfortunate, to be sure, that the *modus operendi* on the tax laws of the state make it impractical for the payment of the taxes immediately. The issue has been definitely settled between Six Companies and Clark county, but payment cannot safely be made by the dam contractors until the state tax commission loses the authority to upset the compromise. Common prudence demands that procedure be observed. That the calendar arranged for tax procedure does not correspond to that arranged for the operation of the public schools is unfortunate, but it's nobody's fault. Neither is it the fault of the 700 children or their parents that the issue was not settled long ago. They are there and school facilities should be forthcoming without any argument, squabble or legal technicalities standing in the way.

When faced with a situation of this kind there is only one thing to do—for all agencies to cooperate in finding a satisfactory way in which it can be met instead of one or more standing aloof and searching for reasons why it can't be done.

Clark county authorities, both the county commissioners and the board of education have gone as far as they can—given their fullest cooperation to the end that the Boulder City school children will be afforded the same opportunity as those of other Nevada communities. The commissioners have approved the establishment of a grammar school district in Boulder City, and the board of education, having to do with the high school situation there has completed arrangements to handle the advanced students in Las Vegas. That's just as far as either board can go in meeting the situation.

Six Companies and Babcock-Wilcox have offered to advance whatever money is necessary to operate the schools which means they are taking whatever financial risk is involved. The bureau of reclamation has offered the school building at a figure which covers the cost of services they will provide in maintenance of the structure.

All that remains is for the state superintendent to come thru with the same kind of cooperation given by all other agencies involved instead of stalling while searching for some new excuse as to why it can't be done. There is nothing to be lost by going ahead with the establishment of a school district there so long as the financial problem is to be solved by the Six Companies on the payment of whose taxes hinge the validity of the district and therefore the security for whatever loan is made to carry on the the school in its early months of state operation. No state or county apportionments can be made to Boulder City until January 1934, a month after the deadline for the payment of taxes.

Just what it behind Superintendent Anderson's reluctance to cooperate in the establishment of Boulder City schools is hard to divine since the financial situation is met without obligation on the part of the state or county.