

Colorado River

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PersonalHon. W. F. McClure  
Director of Public Works  
Sacramento, CaliforniaWATER RESOURCES CENTER ARCHIVES  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

My dear Mr. McClure:

The political aspects of the Colorado River situation, about which I advised you last Thursday, may be summarized as follows:

In Arizona, Governor Hunt has declared against the Compact, and his adherents are claiming that the unwillingness of California to hold a Tri-State Conference indicates a desire to secure some special advantage under the Pact.

Should Governor Richardson advise Governor Hunt that as he learns the Upper Basin States have no possible objection to the Tri-State Conference, and is now ready to appoint conferees, such action would force Hunt either to appoint conferees or go back on his proposition to Governor Richardson. Such an expression of willingness on the part of California to confer would greatly strengthen the support of the Pact in Arizona, even should Hunt now decline to appoint conferees.

I learned, while in Washington, that Mr. Mark Rose, Mr. Matthews and associates were in Washington actively working with Senator Johnson to secure the passage of the Swing-Johnson Bill. I am convinced that the Swing-Johnson Bill committing the Government to a policy of development, of which the inadequate appropriation of \$70,000,000 in the Bill is but the entering wedge, has no chance of passage by Congress, but is merely an adroit political gesture on the part of Senator Johnson for securing the ex-service men's vote, which is being used to the decided disadvantage of President Coolidge.

A Tri-State Conference resulting in a just and satisfactory agreement between the three states would force an endorsement of the Pact in Arizona without regard to Hunt's attitude. With the Pact approved by Arizona, a definite constructive program could then be developed providing for a Federal appropriation for flood control, and the construction of supplementary hydro-electric and irrigation works by states, district, municipalities or private

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interests, all under the direction and control of the proposed Conservancy Board.

Such a plan would mean the thorough-going co-operation of Federal, state and municipal governments in a great, well balanced, construction program. It would be in line with the wise suggestions of President Harding and Secretary Hoover, and would show up the fallacy and impracticability of the Swing-Johnson Bill. It would also, in my opinion, give a real opportunity for ex-service men and greatly strengthen the Coolidge support in California and Arizona. And last, but by no means least, it would create a feeling of friendship and harmony between the states of California and Arizona.

The leaders of the group advocating the Swing-Johnson Bill claim to me that one of the reasons they were not ready to support a Tri-State Conference was their fear that Governor Richardson would not give the Imperial Valley and the municipal ownership group of Los Angeles proper representation among the California conferees. The Governor, of course, is in a position to completely take the "wind out of their sails" in this respect.

Hoping that after you and the Governor have reviewed this matter, the Governor may be inclined to re-open negotiations with Governor Hunt, and assuring you that I shall appreciate it greatly if you will keep me advised of any new developments, believe me

Faithfully yours,

*David H. Heard*

DBH.F