

California, Arizona Halt River Water Battle To Meet Threat of 'Squatters'

San Francisco—California and Arizona have called a temporary truce in their legal battle over Colorado river water rights and joined forces to meet the threat of "squatters" and "escrow Indians."

The two states temporarily halted their squabble before Supreme Court Master Simon Rifkind Tuesday to protest the leasing by the Department of the Interior of 65,000 acres of reservation near Parker, Ariz., to "escrow Indians."

Northcutt Ely, California chief counsel, said the states will "contest any rights to use water here which would leapfrog over prior appropriations in California and Arizona."

Ely also announced that "high level" conferences are being conducted in Washington in an attempt to stop squatters from "illegally taking" water from the river's already overdrawn supply.

Fertile Land Leased

The "escrow Indian" affair came up when Ely produced an announcement by the Interior

Department stating that a large Phoenix, Ariz., development company was lessee of the "highly fertile, irrigable land on the Colorado River Indian Reservation."

The company was identified as United Land and Development Inc., with a reputed \$15 million in operating capital.

Ely, who called owners of such leases "escrow Indians," also pointed out that the acquisition of the 65,000 acres was an "offer en bloc to one operator."

The Interior Department said it had not yet determined how much Colorado river water would be available for use on the reservation land.

Attorneys for the two states said they were concerned whether the government would claim "prior and superior water rights for the Indians," or whether Indian and non-Indian rights to water on the lower Colorado were equal.

Ely said the "squatter" conferences were being held by senators from California and Arizona with Assistant Secretary of

the Interior Fred G. Aandahl.

He pointed out that no one had a right to the water except by government contract and that the Interior Department has refused further water contracts until the present lawsuit is decided.

Ely said that the Bureau of Reclamation has estimated that as much as 100,000 acre feet of water a year is being used by the squatters who have placed pumps in the river on a stretch from Parker Dam, near Parker, Ariz., to a point on the river below Yuma, Ariz. Other estimates have placed the figure as high as 300,000 annual acre feet.

Protests Expected

"We have repeatedly asked the department to take some action on the situation," Ely said, "but so far nothing has come of our requests."

Any action by the government, however, was expected to bring the scores of squatters out in howling protest, some of them threatening to hold their parcels at the point of a gun if necessary.

Meanwhile the Colorado River

Board of California was awaiting the outcome of the current conferences, before making a formal request of Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton to stop the squatters from taking the water and possibly evict them from public lands.

A report sponsored by the board and written by its legal representative, Assistant Attorney General Gilbert Nelson, suggested that the federal government could bring legal action against the squatters because of the "continued drought conditions in the Colorado river basin, the lowered levels of Lake Mead" and the general lack of sufficient water in the lower stretches of the river.

Damage Caused

Nelson suggested that "it might now be possible to convince the Department of Interior that damage has resulted and will continue to result from the unauthorized diversions" of water and that the government might bring action to enjoin the squatters "if as a matter of fact damage can be shown."

The squatters, a group of rugged individualists, have dropped on public land in the Mojave and Cibola Valleys and along the river and set up enterprises ranging from vacation trailer and fishing camps to large scale agricultural developments.

Two-thirds of the group are in Arizona and one-third are in California.



TOUR GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD—As President Eisenhower watches, British Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery peers down the muzzle of a Civil War cannon, as the two World War II generals made a tour of the famed battlefield in Pennsylvania. Both the president and Montgomery, who was a weekend guest at the chief executive's nearby farm, are students of the Gettysburg battle.

Logtown Cemetery Group Sets Meeting

The Logtown Cemetery association will hold its annual meeting and clean-up day Sunday, May 19, at the pioneer cemetery near Ruch.

Members and anyone interested in the project should bring garden tools, according to Mrs. Marguerite Black, association clerk.

A picnic dinner will be served at the Adams home across the creek from the cemetery. Those attending are being asked to bring salads and desserts, Mrs. Black said. Main dish and rolls will be furnished.

The business meeting will start at the cemetery about 2 p.m., weather permitting. In case of rain, the meeting will be held in the Adams home.

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Knowland, Bridges Protest Plan For Military Aid To Yugoslavia

Washington—Senate GOP Leader William F. Knowland today headed a drive to block administration plans to resume shipments of major military aid to Communist Yugoslavia.

Knowland called the decision a "mistake." Chairman Stylos Bridges (N.H.) of the Senate GOP Policy committee said it was a "great mistake."

Eisenhower Approves

The State Department announced plans late Tuesday to resume the shipments, including jet planes. It said it had the specific approval of President Eisenhower.

The department said the action was in the interest of the United States and in line with established U.S. policy "of lending support to those countries seeking to withstand Soviet pressure."

"I am not in favor of taxing the American people to support

the economic and political systems of Communist countries abroad," Knowland said.

He said there "are many of our allies" who are in desperate need of jet planes and are more deserving of aid than Tito who has no commitment even to be neutral "if the U.S. should come under attack."

Bridges, who joined Knowland in a futile fight against the program last year, said he has not changed his mind.

"I am absolutely opposed to it," he said.

Halted Last Summer

The military aid program for Yugoslavia was halted last summer when Congress voted that the program should be suspended unless the President ruled that it was vital to U.S. security. Eisenhower subsequently ruled

that economic aid should continue but ordered suspension of military shipments pending an investigation of whether Tito was moving back into the Moscow orbit.

The State Department announcement said "intervening events have confirmed the President's basic finding that Yugoslavia is and firmly intends to remain independent."

Timber Sale Bids Called for May 22

Cave Junction—Three salvage timber sales have been set for oral bid at the Illinois Valley Ranger station, May 22. Two are on Page mountain, the other in the Grayback area.

One of the Page mountain sales, is a tract of 54 acres with an unguaranteed volume, estimated about 1,000 feet per acre. The second is for about 300,000 feet of cull peeler.

Blowdown timber in the Grayback sale is estimated at 55,000 board feet.

A sale of about 5 million board feet in the Grayback drainage is planned for July. More than a mile of access road will be constructed by the forest service before bids are called.

Dulles Produces Court Decisions To Support Claim

Washington—Secretary of State John Foster Dulles has come up with a list of court decisions to support his claim that the Constitution's guarantee of press freedom relates to publication and not gathering of news.

Relates To Publication

Dulles raised the issue recently in a letter to Arthur Hays Sulzberger, publisher and chairman of the board of the New York Times. The letter, explaining the State Department's ban on travel by U.S. newsmen to Red China, said freedom of the press relates only to publication of news.

The first decision listed by Dulles was a 1930 Supreme Court ruling saying, "It is the chief purpose of the guaranty to prevent restraints upon publication."

The State Department said this decision was reaffirmed by the court in 1951.

In a 1946 decision, according to Dulles' list, the Supreme Court said "the purpose of the Constitution was not to erect the press into a privileged institution, but to protect all persons in their right to print."

Cites Other Rulings

Dulles also cited rulings by the New York Court of Appeals, the highest court of that state, and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

He suggested during his news conference Tuesday that American news organizations hire foreigners to cover news in Red China for them. He said this would not subject Americans to the mistreatment that has befallen U.S. citizens in Communist China, while still providing Americans with news of Red China.

Naval Air Station Halts Work for Fledgling Birds

Chicago—There'll be no more emergency drills at Glenview Naval Air station until a family of fledgling fliers earns its wings.

Bob Mohr, operator of the emergency crew's 80-ton steel crane, discovered a robin's nest tucked away in the steel beams two weeks ago. Tuesday, he reported that one of mother robin's five eggs had hatched.

Mohr said the robins refused to leave the nest even when the huge, diesel-powered crane is moved. The operator tied a cheese cloth net under the nest to prevent an accident while the crane travels.

Glenview personnel asked experts at Brookfield zoo if the nest could be transferred to a safe spot. But Carl Plath, the zoo's bird expert, warned against it, saying the parents probably would desert the nest.

So flight operators resolved the problem by directing Mohr to "roll only if there is a real emergency." In the meantime, daily emergency drills were cancelled until the baby robins reach flight status, expected in about two weeks.

"Guess we can go along," said Cmdr. Pat E. Russell, flight operations officer. "We're a kind of nest for a lot of flying boys ourselves."

TWO PAYMENTS

Cambridge, Mass.—While Chester Hill was waiting in line at the income tax window, a picpocket stole his wallet containing \$12.

Duncan to Speak At Portland Meeting

Portland—Robert B. Duncan, Medford representative to the state legislature, will discuss "A Life for a Life—Reexamined," here at the annual meeting of the Oregon Prison association, according to W. J. Jones, president of the United Fund member agency, Portland.

The noon luncheon meeting will be held Wednesday, May 22, at the Benson hotel, Portland.

Duncan, of Duncan, Brophy, Wilson and Duhaime, Medford law firm, introduced a bill, passed in the current legislative session, abolishing capital punishment in Oregon. Oregon voters will vote on the issue during a special election in 1958.

Duncan recently served as chairman of the Jackson county juvenile court advisory committee. He holds a BA degree from Illinois Wesleyan and an LL.B. from the University of Michigan.

Governor Presents Trophy to Company

Salem—Oregon members of the Armed Forces and the state's various active and reserve military units are honored in a proclamation signed Monday by Gov. Robert D. Holmes setting aside this week as Armed Forces week.

Governor Holmes and his two assistants are scheduled to participate in Armed Forces week events. The Governor presented the Eisenhower trophy to Oregon City's Heavy Mortar company of the 162nd Infantry, Oregon National Guard, during a special program Tuesday night at Oregon City at which Gen. Thomas E. Rilea also was honored.

On Wednesday night Assistant Harry Swanson Jr., a Naval reserve commander, will present the Governor's pennant to the outstanding squadron of Willamette university's air reserve training unit. As a member of the Army reserve, Assistant Tom Wright, a field artillery captain, will participate in Salem's Armed Forces Week program Friday.

Applegate 6th Grade Visits Mail Tribune

Seventeen students from the fifth and sixth grades of Applegate school visited the Mail Tribune plant Tuesday on a field trip.

They were Bonnie Freeman, Bob Hill, Virgil Prowell, Arlene Tansey, Alice Kuitert, Shirley Nielsen, Tommy Herriot, Billy Hancock, Mary Freeman, Mike Elmore, Jackie Stephenson, Jimmie Stephenson, Sally Herriot.

The students were accompanied by Mrs. Mary Overstreet, teacher; Mrs. Carl Herriot and Mrs. Nola Dietrich, parents, and Thornton Gopen.

Cave Junction State Highway Discussed

Cave Junction—If an 80 foot curb to curb highway is to be built through the city of Cave Junction, some 25 per cent of the expense for the \$75,000 to \$100,000 project probably will be assumed by the city.

That is the word from State Highway department engineers who met with members of the city council and planning commission here Tuesday morning.

W. C. (Dutch) Williams, state highway engineer, pointed out that several Oregon cities now have requests in for state highway improvement work. In most instances, he said, the cities are prepared to pay for curbs and storm sewer lines, or about one-fourth of the overall cost.

Accompanying Williams to Cave Junction were Tom Edwards, construction engineer from the Salem office, and F. D. Morgan, division engineer from Roseburg, who is in charge of this territory.

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