

Engineer Rides Rugged River For Survey, But Dams Still Long Way Off

By JOHN KAMPS
 WASHINGTON (AP) — Riding a boat down the Green River, one of the roughest in the country, wasn't too tough for Harry Ratliff, an engineer from Vernal, Utah.
 But trying to get the government to build dams in the river is something else again.
 Ratliff was in an engineering party which made an expedition down the wild river in 1951, to get data in connection with dams proposed in Colorado and Utah. Only about 200 persons have negotiated the river's rough rapids, and about 25 drowned trying to do it.
 Last week Ratliff led a group from Utah and Colorado to the national capital. They tried generally to put some steam behind a drive for dams along the Upper Colorado and its tributaries and specifically to beat down opposition to Green River projects.
 The group got encouragement from members of Congress representing Colorado. Ratliff states who favor construction of a billion-dollar series of dams known as the Upper Colorado Basin Storage Project.
 But the group said it couldn't get an audience with Secretary of the Interior Chapman. The secretary has not yet given President Truman his report on the big project although basin states approved it last year.
 Chapman has given no indication that his report will be made soon. This was caused some Congressmen to doubt that a bill authorizing the project could be passed this year.
 Dr. Ernest Untermyer of Vernal, director of the Utah Museum of Natural History, along with Ratliff and other Westerners in the group called a press conference here Friday to show reporters motion pictures of the 1951 trip down the Green River and to argue for dams.
 Sites of the proposed dams were described. The Echo Park Dam in Colorado, near the Utah border and near the confluence of the Yampa River, would cost an estimated 165 million dollars. Split Mountain Dam in Utah, downstream from Echo Park, would cost at least 76 million.
 Untermyer said opponents of the two dams include members of the National Park Association, Audubon Society, Isaac Walton League and women's clubs.
 Principal arguments against the projects are that they would:
 Flood fossil beds in the Dinosaur National Monument, which covers parts of Utah, Colorado and Wy-

oming; destroy the beauty of a great wilderness area; "invade" the monument and violate National Park rights.
 Ratliff and Untermyer gave these answers to the arguments: The dinosaur beds are far from both dam sites and would be in no way affected by the projects; the dams would not destroy the beauty of the area, but would make it possible for more people to get into the area and enjoy the scenery; when the monument was enlarged from 60 acres to more than 300 square miles in the 1930's, the Park Service promised residents of the area that the expansion would not interfere with development of reclamation projects along the river.

The argument against flooding part of a National Park was used successfully last year to block authorization for Glacier View Dam in Montana, which would have inundated some Glacier Park land.
 Ratliff feels that the need for irrigation water and hydroelectric power outweighs all other considerations.
 He says "There's nothing more wasteful than 5,400,000 acre-feet of water being permitted to rush uselessly down the Green River canyons and into the Colorado."

WORD TROUBLE

WASHINGTON (AP) — Diplomatic gobbledegook can get so bad even diplomats apologize for it.
 Secretary of State Acheson in his report to the nation on the Lisbon meetings of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) said airfields and port facilities were called "infrastructures."
 He said he couldn't explain how they came to be called that, and added:
 "Despite this heavy handicap, good progress was made."



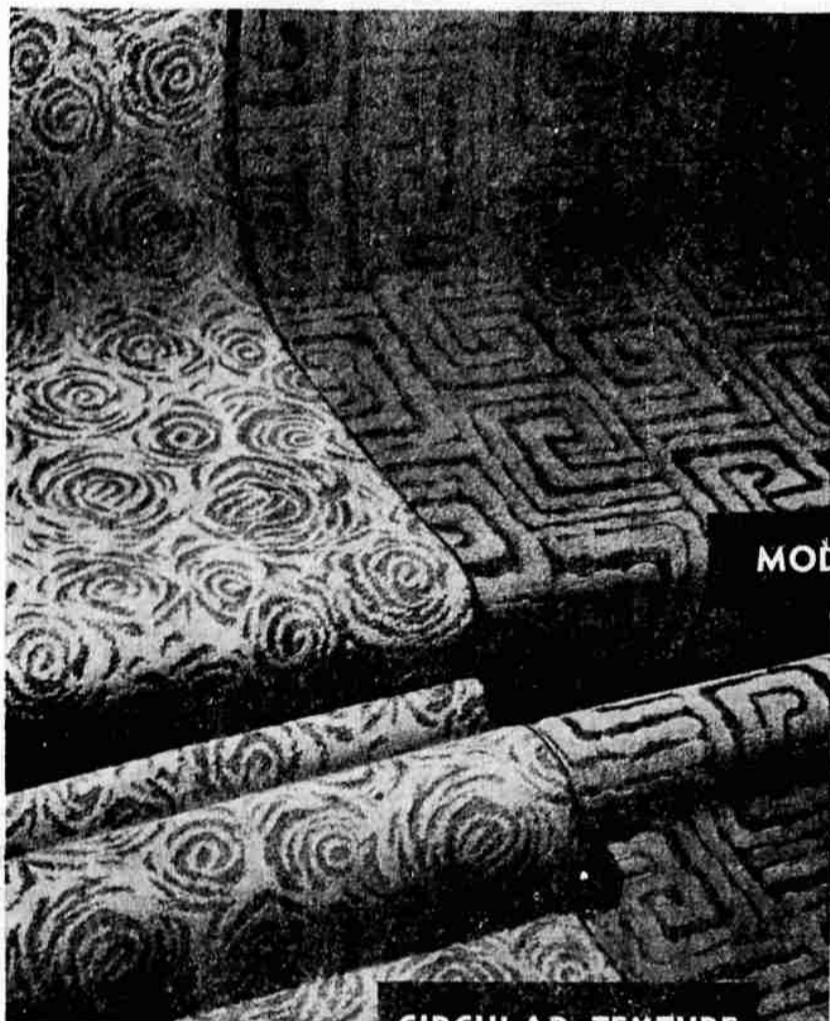
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