

MINUTES OF THE2ND MEETINGCOLORADO RIVER COMMISSION

The second meeting of the Colorado River Commission was held at the Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., Friday afternoon, January 27th, at 2:30 P.M. There were present:

Herbert Hoover	Representing the U. S. . . .	Chairman
R. E. Caldwell	"	Utah
Delph E. Carpenter	"	Colorado
Stephen B. Davis	"	New Mexico
Frank C. Emerson	"	Wyoming
W. F. McClure	"	California
W. S. Norviel	"	Arizona
James G. Scrugham	"	Nevada
Clarence C. Stetson.		Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 2:30 P. M.

MR. HOOVER: "We had intended to devote this afternoon to statements of those who are interested in presenting their views to the Commission."

The Chairman called upon Senator Key Pittman of Nevada, who made the following statement:

"I appreciate very much the honor of being here this afternoon. I came particularly for the purpose of hearing the Chairman and others outline the scope of the work of this Commission and the jurisdiction as you understand it.

"I do not think that there is any more important internal work, as affecting the western section of this country, now under way, or even in anticipation. I am very pleased, Mr. Chairman, that this procedure has taken the course that it has. I think that the Western States ought to be congratulated upon the fact that they have as Chairman of this Commission not only an eminent engineer but an eminent economist. I feel also that the work of this Commission, the successful work of it, I may say, may be anticipated from the very constitution of this Commission. It is a very fortunate thing indeed that the Secretary of the Interior, burdened down as he is by the work that he has now, should have been agreeable,

to the formation of a commission of this character, which may be composed of representatives from the various States that are interested in the development of this project, a commission that will have the time and the knowledge and the experience to work out and develop a plan that will undoubtedly be successful and will be approved by the Congress.

"I do not know at the present time under what particular authority this project will be finally completed. I assume that that is a matter which the Commission will take up among other things for consideration.

"There is a doubt, possibly, as to whether or not it might be constructed and operated under the Federal Water Power Commission Act.. It might be contended that it was the purpose of Congress in creating that Commission to simply supervise the building of a project, or if built by the Government, to supervise its operation by other persons in the Government. In other words, the question arises as to whether or not the Water Power Commission is authorized by Congress to operate as a Government enterprise such a project. There is still another question affecting that Water Power Act, and that is this: That in dealing with navigable streams it appears from the construction of the Act that Congress intended that the project should not be constructed unless there was a prior finding by the Federal Water Power Commission to the effect that the proposed project would aid navigation. The whole Act was based upon the theory of the Constitutional authority of Congress to facilitate interstate and foreign commerce. I believe that the Colorado River has been defined as a navigable stream. As to whether or not the Water Power Commission could make the necessary finding under the Act that this work would benefit navigation on that stream to facilitate commerce, I do not know.

"There is another Act, and that is the Reclamation Act, under which in my opinion this project could be constructed.

"It may be desirable, however (and undoubtedly that is another matter that the Commission will give careful attention to), to obtain an additional authority from the Congress of the United States dealing separately and particularly with this enormous project.

"These questions all involve, of course, not only constitutional questions which will be examined very carefully by the legal representatives of this Commission and by the legal representatives of the War Department and the Department of the Interior, but it involves the practical question of so presenting the matter to Congress that they may feel justified in providing the necessary funds for this great undertaking.

"I have not the slightest doubt that the Chairman of this Commission will be able to convince Congress that this will be a paying project, that the money which is advanced will be a good loan and a sensible loan and a tremendous benefit to a large section of this country, which will be reflected in prosperity and in increased taxable property.

"I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having given me this opportunity. I did not expect to impose upon this Commission at this time by making a statement. We are about to vote upon a very important measure in the Senate, but I hope to have the pleasure and opportunity at such times as may be convenient to the Commission to keep informed with regard to their work and to assist in any possible way, both as a representative in the Senate and as a citizen of the State of Nevada, and one who is, of course, interested as much as any one in the development of the country. After this matter has developed further, if there are any suggestions that I might make, I will communicate my desires to the Chairman of the Commission. Meantime I thank you and wish you every success."

MR. HOOVER: "I am sure the Commission will be more than glad to have any assistance. Representative Swing, you come from California and are interested

in this problem. Let us have your advice and views."

REPRESENTATIVE SWING: "Gentlemen of the Commission, the starter on an engine that gets your car going is a very small part of the mechanism of the car. In like manner, the little Imperial Valley in relation to the Colorado River Valley is a very small part of the great project you have in mind, but it has given the impetus to this great undertaking. It is because we have to build up a dyke between our Valley and the waters of the Colorado River, which runs down from the up-stream States in flood season, and keep on building up that dyke at the rate of about a foot a year without knowing where the limit will be, that we became and now are vitally interested in this great proposal.

"We started by sending delegations back here like children crying in a wilderness, we did not know exactly what the remedy should be but knew we were in danger of being badly hurt. Finally we got the Kindaid Bill passed which appropriated \$20,000, conditional on the interested parties putting up a like amount. Imperial Valley has put up \$100,000 to match the \$20,000, and in addition \$5,000 from the State of Arizona; and \$5,000 from our neighbor Coachella Valley. While it started as our project and as our problem, I have always felt that what we are proposing was to be only the first step or unit in a great big undertaking.

"When I was at Secretary Lane's conference in Denver in 1914, I spoke and had in mind a Colorado River Commission to take that river and develop it as a private person would his private property, systematically, and scientifically as one harmonious whole, so that when it was completed it would be the proud boast of our people that not an ounce of energy nor a drop of water went to waste. I made an unfortunate mistake of suggesting a Federal Colorado Commission, and found the conference to be slightly unpopular at that time towards such a commission. I believe, since that time, the Government has conducted itself in such a manner that it has reinstated itself in the good graces of everybody, and I hope of the citizens of Colorado.

"This is the greatest constructive project before the American people to-day. It is a great proposition and must be worked out as a whole. I would like to see you gentlemen, as well as ourselves, have faith in it as a unified project, and take the broad view of it, plan and develop the property as a whole, and if you do, your names will go down to posterity as men who have done what is worth while. It is dangerous to look at it from a point of view of your particular State, losing the perspective that it is a great national project. It is comparable with the Panama Canal. In fact, the Panama Canal was built for the world while all the benefits from this project will be returned to the United States and its citizens, and there will be a never-ending dividend for each of your States and for the American people in the production of new wealth, agricultural, mineral, and electric power. You can no more think of dividing this river up and leasing out independent segments of it to different interests than you could think of leasing separate parts of a Transcontinental Railroad to independent local operating concerns and then try to run a train across the continent without having accidents and wrecks on every mile. It must be a coordinating and harmonious whole, each part fitting in with the other projects. It is a big project and I know you men see it and feel it that way and that you are going to take a glory in being a part of it, and making it a success.

"In my opinion Congress will get back of whatever you gentlemen agree upon as the right thing to do. If you men can agree, and here's hoping you do, I would like to get back of your proposals and will help. It will be necessary to have legislative appropriations. I gladly pledge you my support in your efforts."

MR. HOOVER: "There is one little thing we are in need of. There is no appropriation for this Commission at all."

REPRESENTATIVE SWING: "I have never had the pleasure of meeting General Dawes and you have."

MR. CARPENTER: "The States made separate appropriations for their Commissioners and their expenses, including the expenses of the whole Commission. In the bill,

Congress passed, a certain \$10,000 appropriation clause appears. As I understand, the Treasury Department has ruled that that is not an appropriation. Therefore, The Commissioner of the United States is without purse for traveling and other incidental expenses."

REPRESENTATIVE SWING: "I will be very glad to take it up with Chairman Madden."

MR. HOOVER: "I have asked the Budget Commission to send it forward and I hope you might interest yourself a little in it."

The Chairman then called upon Representative Samuel S. Arentz of Nevada, who made the following statement:

"I did not know until I went to the office at 12 o'clock that I had an invitation to attend this Committee Meeting. The development of the Colorado River and construction of the Boulder Canyon Dam are matters that have been very close to my heart for a number of years. I know the Colorado River country from Wyoming to Imperial Valley. I think it was the Chief Engineer of the Assouan Dam of Egypt, on the Nile, who in traveling over the Southern Pacific railroad and seeing a portion of the Imperial Valley, and crossing the Colorado River, stated that he wished he were a young man. He said: 'If I were a young man, it would be my ambition to have even a small interest in the development of the Colorado River for in many ways it presents the same difficulties I overcame on the Nile and possesses the same great possibilities of development.' He looked at it as a great many of you gentlemen, if not all of you, look at it, as one of the most important undertakings for the development of the interior of our country. With the development of the Colorado River, we are going to develop the West--the Pacific Coast. In that development we are going to produce tonnage. This tonnage will will help in a great measure to solve the railroad problems of the West. I can assure you that I hope that I can give at least a little help towards the consummation of this wonderful undertaking and it is a privilege, I am sure, to be here with you this afternoon."

The Chairman then called upon Representative Henry Z. Osborne, of California who made the following statement:

"Mr. Chairman, I have in years gone by given considerable attention to the Colorado River. Some years ago I was intimately connected with it and I wrote a pamphlet about it, 'The American Nile.' At that time, as well as now, I was greatly impressed by the wonderful potentialities of the Colorado River. I remember at that time my idea was, looking at it from a rather local point of view, that large reservoirs should be constructed up to the Grand Canyon for the purpose of controlling the floods and also of perfecting the irrigation system. At that time we figured on the amount of territory that could be reclaimed south of the Grand Canyon. Then there was less land in cultivation in southern California than there is now. The entire cultivated area south of Santa Barbara in California, including the 400,000 acres in the Imperial Valley, is about 1,000,000 acres, and we thought at that time that it would be possible, including the Mesa lands as well as the valley lands, to reclaim two or three millions of acres. When we think of the great richness of the soil of that territory, and that there would be two or three millions of acres of it, compared with the million now under cultivation, the possibilities are made quite graphic. I came here to hear and not to speak, but I thank you for giving me an opportunity of telling you what my general ideas are.

I think that taking this matter up in this broad way is very important. There are international considerations involved. The treaty with Mexico is potent still. The treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo provides that the navigation of the Colorado River shall be preserved. At that time there was navigation as far as Yuma and even to The Needles. That will all have to be taken into account. I feel the greatest confidence in this Commission that it will deal successfully with this great subject."

MR. HOOVER: "Is there anyone else here who would like to express their views to the Commission? (Mr. Kruckman was called but was not present). If there is no one else, I suggest we adjourn to give the subcommittees an opportunity for further study. If you are in agreement, we will adjourn until to-morrow at 2:30 P.M."

The meeting then adjourned.

CLARENCE C. STETSON,

Acting Secretary.

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