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Dinosaur National Monument

Colorado National Parks

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1950 Transcript of Various Resolutions Adopted from the Echo Park Reservoir Project Public Hearing

United States Department of the Interior

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Fullmer H. Latter

President of Utah State Federation of Labor

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Secretary & Treasurer Utah Wildlife Federation

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The avowed principles of National Park development are well understood and sympathy is not lacking for them. However, it is a modern world we live in and it needs all its resources and facilities and their continued improvement if we are not to retrogress and are to continue to grow and improve as a nation. Just how much will be affected the avowed aims of the Park Service to build the reservoirs proposed and make use of natural resources which will be a tremendous benefit to the people of the surrounding country and will greatly increase the number of such people?

With the National Park Service's intention to maintain areas within its jurisdiction, so far as possible, in their natural condition, there can be no complaint provided it is recognized, as it must be, that there is actually involved the building of facilities which make the more attractive parts of such areas readily accessible to the public. Instances can be cited in which such roads have been built, over the protests of the Park Service landscapers, that the natural scenery was being irreparably defaced, when ten years later the roads were hardly distinguishable from even a moderate distance. Manifestly if people are to see these things, means must be provided for them to get to them.

Are the canyons of Green and Yampa rivers to be left in such a state that only hardy pioneers like Powell, the

Kolb Brothers and the Nevilles are the only ones who can visit them, and they will do so at the risk of their lives? Will it not be much better to permit thousands and tens of thousands of people to traverse these canyons in boats, safely and comfortably to gaze up at the still stupendous heights of their towering cliffs, foreshortened only nominally by the depth of these reservoirs? Will it not be better to have these large bodies of clear water in which fish will thrive than the muddy flows which now pass through these canyons for most of the year in dwindling amounts and of no earthly use for any good purpose?

Finally, for the welfare of the people who have chosen this as their dwelling place and in opposition to the views of those who would like to keep the West a wilderness, these developments need to be made. The conservation of surplus waters so vital to the whole states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, the generation of electricity for the people of these four states which they so greatly need right now, the development of rich natural deposits of various materials in the immediate vicinity and at greater distances, all call for such compromise of views on the part of the National Park Service as will make these natural attractions more easily accessible while preserving them in as near a state of nature as is consonant with their

utilization for the greater public good.

/s/ Frank C. Merriell

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RESOLUTION

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Conservation District Concerning the Proposed Echo Park and Split Mountain Reservoirs In the Dinosaur National Monument.

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of this District is informed that the National Park Service is resisting the effort of the Bureau of Reclamation to build Echo Park and Split Mountain reservoirs, within Dinosaur National Monument, and

WHEREAS it is apparent from the record that the National Park Service, in apparent good faith, has agreed on many previous occasions to the building of these or suitable water storage or conservation facilities within the Monument, particularly by an inter-agency agreement entered into in 1941, and

WHEREAS studies by the Bureau of Reclamation show conclusively that at no other or alternative sites can be secured such economical results in power production, water conservation or power marketing with so little evaporation loss, and

WHEREAS the area to be submerged by these reservoirs

is the most inaccessible parts of the canons of Green and Yampa rivers that have been visited by very few people because of the difficulty and dangers of the trip although with the reservoirs built they could be visited in safety and comfort by thousands, and

WHEREAS there are few, if any, archeological, botanical or geologic artifacts that will be submerged by these reservoirs and there is ample time to remove such of them as can be moved and to make a permanent record of such as cannot, and

WHEREAS the use of these canons for storage of water will increase rather than decrease their accessibility to the average citizen and create a scenic and recreation center in what is now, and must otherwise remain, a desert waste, and

WHEREAS the National Park Service, having had exclusive jurisdiction over these natural scenic assets for more than 12 years has not seen fit to expend one cent in their improvement or to open them up for public use or enjoyment, and

WHEREAS there are already too many areas of such waste territory in the immediate vicinity and in the West generally, but the building of these reservoirs will assure greater accessibility to the scenery and aid in utilization of such natural resources, to name but one of many, as the phosphate beds nearby, and

WHEREAS these and other large storage reservoirs must be built upon Colorado river and its tributaries, if the people of the Upper Basin are to fulfill their obligation to the Lower Basin and secure for themselves an equal share in the water of Colorado river for their own use

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of The Colorado River Water Conservation District most earnestly recommends to Honorable Oscar L. Chapman, Secretary of Interior, that the Bureau of Reclamation be permitted to build Echo Park and Split Mountain reservoirs in the locations chosen, with their attendant works, and that the Park Service be required to build in conjunction with these works, a recreation area similar to that at Hoover dam, so that the area can be put to its greatest economic and cultural use and contribute to the welfare of people, not only in the immediate area, but as far removed as Salt Lake City, Denver and Southwestern Wyoming.

State of Colorado)
) ss.
County of Mesa)

I. F. C. Merriell, Secretary of this District, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true, correct and full transcript of a resolution adopted by mail ballot by the Board of Directors of The Colorado River Water Conservation District, on the 25th day of March, 1950.

/s/ F. C. Merriell
Secretary

UTAH STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

151 South 2nd East, Salt Lake City, Utah

March 30, 1950

Dean R. D. Goodrich

Hay-Adams Hotel

Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a resolution and a letter to the Secretary of the Interior both of which are self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

UTAH STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

/s/ FULLMER H. LATTER

Fullmer H. Latter, President

- - -

March 30, 1950

Oscar L. Chapman, Sec'y. of Interior

Department of the Interior

Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a resolution passed by this organization which is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

UTAH STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

Fullmer H. Latter, President

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it has long been realized that the future well being of its people and the growth of the State of Utah depends in a large part upon water supply and electric power, and

WHEREAS, the planned development of the Upper Colorado River Basin will bring about some measure of assurance of opportunity of development and betterment for the workers of Utah and create the opportunity for employment of our youth at home instead of abroad, and

WHEREAS, the Utah Central Project provides the best means at present for Utah to utilize its share of the Upper Colorado River Basin waters, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Echo Park and Split Mountain development is the logical first step to bring to a conclusion the full development of the Central Utah Project, and

WHEREAS, this generation is interested in the present and future welfare of the people of the State of Utah and the Intermountain area,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Utah State Federation of Labor urges the Secretary of the Interior, Oscar L. Chapman to exercise his good judgement and executive ability and immediately give his consent and approval to proceed with the necessary steps to build the Echo Park

and Split Mountain Project.

UTAH STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

/s/ FULLMER H. LATTER

Fullmer H. Latter, President

/s/ J. R. WILSON

J. R. Wilson, Sec'y. Treasurer

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UTAH WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Ogden Utah, Box 630

March 27, 1950.

Harold A. Link

Hay Adams Hotel

Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Link:

The following resolution was adopted at the annual meeting of the Utah Wildlife Federation held January 21 - 22, 1950 in Salt Lake City Utah.

Whereas, the construction of the Echo Park Dam in the Dinosaur National Monument will create a lake 100 miles in length, and whereas this lake will greatly enhance the beauty of the Yampa and Green River Canyons and Whereas, It will be possible to raise unlimited amounts of fish, and will create a recreation area to be enjoyed by thousands of sportsmen, and Whereas this lake will create a refuge for migratory birds which does not now exist in this

area. Now therefore be it resolved that the Utah Wildlife Federation urge Oscar L. Chapman, Sec. of the Interior and the Utah Delegation in Congress to pass legislation for the construction of Echo Park Dam within the confines of the Dinosaur National Monument.

Sincerely,

Utah Wildlife Federation

/s/ WILLARD R. DOXEY

Willard R. Doxey, Secy. Treasurer.

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GarKane Power Association, Inc.

REA

Richfield, Utah

March 25, 1950.

Mr. Harold A. Linke,
State Engineer,
403 State Capitol Building,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Mr. Linke:

The Board of Directors of the Cooperative Association has approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS recent surveys taken over the past few years by the Bureau of Reclamation showing definite benefits to be derived by the construction of the Echo Park Dam for reclamation and power purposes, and

WHEREAS water will be made available to irrigate a

large number of acres of land not under cultivation at this time and will provide supplement water for other lands, and

WHEREAS more power will be made available to the utilities of the State of Utah and other states, and

WHEREAS the commercial or wholesale rates for electricity, paid by this Association, are excessive for the development of irrigation, industry and the general well being of this area, (with a load factor of 51.81%, the cost of power purchased was 13.58 mills for the month of February 1950) and

WHEREAS the building of the Echo Park dam is needed to take care of the natural growth in land development, power demands for irrigation and industrial purposes and for the general development of the State of Utah,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the GarKane Power Association, Inc. Richfield, Utah that Congress be urged to provide money for the construction of the Echo Park Dam and its associated projects at the earliest possible date.

Dated at Richfield, Utah this 25th day of March, 1950.

Yours very truly,

/s/ REED BURR

Reed Burr, President.

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