

September 8, 1976

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President will sign at 6:15 p.m. this evening S. 3283 - The Reclamation Authorization Act of 1976. This will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, repair, study or take other actions with regard to six water resources projects; and authorizes the appropriation of funds to construct the previously authorized Uintah Unit, Central Project, Utah.

Kanopolis Unit, Kansas (Title I)

In collaboration with the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to: (1) modify an existing dam and lake and (2) construct irrigation diversion structures and a system of canals, laterals, and drains to provide irrigation water for approximately 20,000 acres of land. Appropriations of \$30,900,000 would be authorized for this project.

Oroville-Tonasket Unit, Washington (Title II)

The Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to construct, operate, and maintain irrigation works to supply water for approximately 10,000 acres of land and to enhance the fishery resources of the Similkameem, Okanogan, and Columbia Rivers. Appropriations of \$39,370,000 would be authorized for this project.

Allen Camp Unit, California (Title V)

The Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to construct, operate, and maintain a dam and reservoir for purposes of irrigation, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement. Appropriations of \$64,220,000 would be authorized for this project.

McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma (Title VII)

The Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to construct, operate and maintain a dam and reservoir for purposes of storing, regulating, and conveying water for municipal and industrial use, conserving and developing fish and wildlife resources, providing outdoor recreation opportunities, developing a scenic recreation area, and controlling floods. Appropriations of \$83,239,000 would be authorized for the project, and in addition, the Secretary would be authorized to purchase up to 20,000 acres of private land in developing the recreation area.

S. 3283 would authorize the American Canal Extension, Texas (Title IV).

Under this project, the Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to construct a 15-mile extension of the existing American Canal at El Paso, Texas, to achieve greater efficiency in water use for the existing Rio Grande Project, reduce or eliminate safety and health hazards, and enable the retrieval and use of a greater portion of the United States' share of water apportioned from the Rio Grande River according to the 1906 treaty with Mexico. Appropriations of \$21,714,000 would be authorized for the project.

Further, the bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a sixth project, rehabilitation of the federally owned Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel in Colorado, by installing a steel reinforced tunnel section an estimated distance of 1,000 feet inward from its portal (Title VI). The bill would authorize appropriations of (1) \$2,750,000 for the rehabilitation and (2) such sums as necessary to maintain the tunnel and analyze its water quality.