

August 4, 1931.

Dr. Elwood Mead,
Commissioner of Reclamation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Mead:

I have your letter of July 31 and it is evident that my letter of July 28, with reference to administration of water rights in the Uintah Basin, was not very clear.

The Utah Water Storage Commission is not interesting itself in the distribution of water from the proposed Moon Lake Reservoir. The question related to the distribution of water into such reservoir, in other words such distribution as provided for the storage of water. After the water was once stored it would probably be at the disposal of the project although it might easily be that at a time of shortage the Indian Service could demand the release of this water for its own use under the claim that it was not rightfully stored.

The Commission is also interested in this question from the angle of considering it rather poor policy for the claimant of a right to be the sole judge and arbitrator as to the measure of and the supplying such right.

The case of the Echo Reservoir is wholly different in that the State of Utah, through its authorized officials, is charged with the duty of seeing that the reservoir receives the supply to which it is legally entitled. Distribution from the Echo Reservoir is, of course, governed by the proper demands of the purchasers of said supply.

The last paragraph of your letter of July 31, relating to the proposed canal of the Moon Lake Project, indicates that you are quite willing to have this construction left to the subscribers to Moon Lake water and this will be so reported to the Commission.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

GMB/E