

Extract from a Letter Received July 29, 1956

(The following is an excerpt from a letter dated July 29, 1956. The writer's name will be furnished on request.)

"In response to your letters, you are entirely correct as to the Mexican Water Treaty—lies and "skulduggery". At the hearing on it at Washington, D. C. before the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee in 1944, we both testified against it at considerable length, and also worked hard against it.

"I can recall getting a letter from you then, agreeing with the substance of my testimony, but wanting to know why I had not used stronger language cursing the crooks and villains.

"As to the 1,800,000 acre feet nonsense, you are certainly correct. Mr. Lawson testified as to its correctness and in answer to our questions explained its source. He had sent an assistant across the border to Anderson-Claytons (cotton brokers) office, where he was told that the Mexican irrigated area was 300,000 acres and the annual use of water 6 acre feet per acre. The true area was little if any more than 200,000 acres then and with cotton the chief crop, the use was not over 3.0 to 3.5 acre feet per acre, so we testified the Mexican total was less than half Lawson's figure.

"The problem was that the Administration (Pres. Roosevelt) had ordered the Treaty completed, ahead of the United Nations (organization) meetings, so that no discord could then arise, or disturb the Mexican help to our war activities. The Upper Basin officials and Senators were determined to have the Treaty, to protect their own water rights. They promised the Arizona officials and Senators that it was only California water that was being given to Mexico.

"Mr. Lawson also testified definitely that Texas was to receive 800,000 acre feet per year more, as a result of the Treaty, than would have been otherwise available on the Lower Rio Grande. This was exactly the excess amount that was given to Mexico from our Colorado River, as I figured things out. So in spite of all the pious denials, the Treaty was really just a crude "horse-trade", as we all claimed."