Welcome to Water, Water
But Not a Drop to Drink

Dreams really do come true.
A number of Antelope Valley residents today will
join with top officials, including Gov. Ronald Reagan,
in the dedication of the A. D. Edmonston Pumping
plant on the north side of the Tehachapi Mountains.

The pumping plant, located 35 miles southeast of
Bakersfield, is scheduled to go into operation during
the ceremonies to mark the start of pumping water
over the mountains.

The Antelope Valley Board of Trade and the An­
telepe Valley-East Kern Water Agency are planning an­
other celebration sometime in the next few months to
mark the delivery of water into the aqueduct on the
south side of the Tehachapis.

The California Water Project is one of the greatest
achievements of civilized man.

The Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency was
brought into existence in 1950 for the express purpose
of providing an agency that could accept and dis­
tribute supplemental water. AVEK, the Palmdale Irriga­
tion District, and the Little River Irrigation District
subsequently contracted with the state to take water
from the East Branch of the aqueduct.

But a tragic thing happened on the way to obtain­
ing water for most of Antelope Valley when the voters
failed to approve the $49 million AVEK bond issue last
Feb. 16.

This means that Antelope Valley residents are
faced with the grim irony of watching water flow down
the aqueduct in the next few months without being able
to use it.

The Ancient Mariner's complaint about "water,
water everywhere and not a drop to drink", will become
a frustrating truism in our own community.

AVEK has notified the state it does not expect to
take any water from the aqueduct until 1975.

In order to do this, AVEK must pass a bond elec­
tion by at least late 1973, because it will take a year or
longer to build the distribution system.

But in the meantime, the water table throughout
Antelope Valley continues to drop ... about 5 feet per
year.

This means that wells go dry, become less produc­
tive, and that costs more to pump water for agriculture and
domestic uses.

Another sad thing about this situation is that con­
struction costs (except during the "wage freeze") con­
tinue to spiral upward and it is estimated that the $49
million system would cost at least $51 million today ... and
likely in the future.

And so is it with mixed emotions that Antelope
Valley welcomes the delivery of California Project
water to Southern California. It is quite literally a
dream come true, but it is a dream with overtones of a
nightmare for water-thirsty desert residents.

LAW IN ACTION

EX-STUDENT

In 1960 several students of a
college were expelled af­
quired? First the hearing is
not a trial. The student must
be given notice of the charges,
sentence of its introduction on
March 30, provided that such
cases in all but the very
small courts in California
would be handled by magis­
trates, "commissioners" or
referees. Their real oppo­
tion is that my legislation is
interfering with the pecking
order by eliminating "infer­
tior" judges, which many of
them once were. They are
miffed that others may be­
come superior court judges
without coming up the
same way they did.

2. The Judicial Council.
The Judicial Council has
opted for further study of
this subject. I served on the
Judicial Council during 1969
and 1970 when I was Chair­
man of the Assembly Judi­
ciary Committee. During
those two years my commit­
tee thoroughly reviewed my
legislation on this subject and
asked the Judicial Coun­
del to do the same. They did
nothing but delay. Now, this
year, when I would stand
for their feet-dragging no
longer, I pushed the legisla­
tion through two Assembly
committees and the Floor of the
Assembly. The Judicial
Council did not utter a word
of opposition. But when the
measures reached the Sen­
ate, the Judicial Council
heartily contracted with Daz,
Allen and Hamilton to tack
a study of this subject with
a study of another subject
nearly completed. This is a
usual trick played by op­
ponents of legislation in
order to sidetrack it.

3. A very few municipal
court judges. Three or four
municipal court judges have
expressed opposition because
they say it will interfere
with the power of the people
to remove judges in a judi­
clial district. My legislation
calls for judges and magis­
trates to run for office coun­
ty-wide. However, voting
a judge out of office is such a
rarity that it is a toothless
right. It usually takes fla­
grant misconduct by a judge
to cause the voters to re­
move him or some decision
by a judge on a highly emo­
tional issue, where this de­
cision is unpopular with the
thinking of a great majority
of the people, e.g., the deci­
Antelope Valley Plan
October 7, 1971