

A kind of insanity - LTE *Arizona Daily Star* (October 1, 1981)

I find that I rarely disagree with a Star editorial, but your Sep. 18 comments on Secretary of Interior James Watt and the CAP draw forth a strong objection.

In your zeal to bring the CAP to Tucson through the offices of the pious Secretary, you unfairly represent serious opposition to the whole CAP project. It may be that objection to the CAP from conservationists has been "aimed more at the construction methods and routing of the project, not its basic purpose," but that does not mean everyone thinks it's a good idea.

Objection has focused on construction methods and such because those areas are the only ones open to public input at this stage of the game. The Star well knows that opposition to the whole concept of CAP was strong before federal approval. Many of us have long thought that bringing scarce, salty Colorado River water hundreds of miles over the mountains to drop it in the desert was and is a damn foolish idea, whose only benefit is to the real estate mongers and their urban monstrosities, like smog and sprawl and nuclear power plants.

The CAP is one more Chamber of Commerce absurdity come true. Many of us, neither conservationists nor so-called liberals, object not only to Orme Dam but also the whole scheme of unlimited growth advocates who would construct high-technology, energy-intensive cities in the fragile life-system of the desert. The project should be in little danger from Watt: It's just a kind of insanity.