

DICK MACRAVEY

PS: Today is Wednesday, October 11, 2006 and we're in Denver doing an oral history interview for the Colorado River Water Users Association. I'm Pam Stevenson, doing the interview. Bill Stevenson is our videographer. And I will let you introduce yourself.

DM: I am Richard D. "Dick" MacRavey. I'm now retired from the Colorado Water Congress of which I have served for 26 years but I was in politics for 50 years. So I go back, all the way, way back. And I know all the Udalls and everybody else. I knew the Senator himself.

PS: Let's start with talking about you and then we'll get into talking about that. I'd like to get some background about you personally. When were you born and where were you born?

DM: I was born March 2, 1931 and I'm 75 years old, and I was born, of all places, in Toledo, Ohio, which I was only there for two months and lived in Wisconsin when I grew up.

PS: What did your family do?

DM: Farmers and state government.

PS: In Wisconsin?

DM: Yes. My father was secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO union in Wisconsin, and my mother came from a long line of Norwegian farmers. There were nine brothers and sisters who came over from Norway and they had nine to seventeen children.

PS: So how many children were in your family?

DM: Just myself.

PS: So your mother broke that chain.

DM: Yeah. Well, she was a beautician and that's where she made her living. My father worked for the unions in the state of Wisconsin. I went to the University of Wisconsin, but before I did that, I did four years in the United States Navy, did the Mediterranean, did around Cape Horn, did Korea twice in the so-called peace action in Korea and was the only carrier that ever dropped an atomic bomb which I saw, and also the only carrier that ever shot down any MIGs in Korea.

PS: So you had quite a career before you ever got to college.

DM: Then I went to the University of Wisconsin in political science. I jokingly call it political astrology, which everybody gets amused at, because I never saw any indication that politics is a science.

PS: And what were you planning to do with that? What were your career goals?

DM: Politics. I've always been in politics. The family's always been in politics. I was a great admirer of the Follett family, which was a very big deal in Wisconsin. I went to the University of Wisconsin with one of the grandsons, and then I came out to Colorado and went to the University of Colorado in Boulder, where I got a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

PS: What made you come out to Colorado?

DM: I came here on the California Zephyr, from California and would go through Colorado every time on my way to Chicago, and I thought this is the place, so I came here to Colorado. And they gave me a graduate degree and they gave me a special honorary stipend to be here.

PS: What year was that?

DM: I graduated from Wisconsin in 1958 and I graduated with a Master's Degree from University of Colorado in 1959. But I was involved with a lot of people who were in water type politics in Colorado in those days.

PS: What was your first job then out of school in Colorado?

DM: Colorado _____

PS: What were you doing there?

DM: I was a research man. I did work for them on every subject dealing with the Legislature. And the first water event that I heard was in 1959 when I heard four of the key people in water on a panel who all almost got into a fight. It was incredible. There was Glenn Saunders, who was the attorney for Denver Water for 62 years, Felix Larry Sparks, who was the general, who was director of the Water Conservation Board for 22 years, Senator Ted Gill from Hillrose, Colorado. Then the last person was Press Walker, who was the owner-publisher of the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel and he was the founder of Club 20, which was the whole west slope area of the state of Colorado and very involved in water. And the four people were yelling at each other. It was the first panel I'd ever heard on water in Colorado because Glenn told Sparks, "You're the bravest man I've ever known, but also the most stupid." And Sparks said, "You know, I could haul off and hit you, you old son of a bitch, but I would hurt you".

PS: What were they so angry about?

DM: Water. Water rights.

PS: Just in general?

DM: Yeah. Sparks was an unusual individual. He was in the Army. He retired as a Brigadier General. He was a Supreme Court Justice in Colorado. He was a district attorney. He was the key person for 22 years for the Water Conservation Board that was founded and formed under then Governor Steve McNichols who was the individual along with the former attorney general. McNichols was a Democrat, and Attorney General Duke Dunbar was Republican and they formed the Colorado Water Congress in 1958, which is also in that directory book that I gave you, which has all kinds of details about the formation of the organization, plus everything on the Compacts, all the key cases on water in the state. Sparks, by virtue of the fact that he was also a Supreme Court Justice, was very knowledgeable in this area.

PS: I tried to get him to do an interview, but he doesn't want to do it.

DM: He's 88, and he's not doing well. He can't hardly drive anymore, can't hardly do anything.

PS: We could go to him, that's not a problem. But he just said he didn't want to do it. He was pretty firm about it.

DM: I know, and the way he is, he's a tough old son of a gun. I know him very well. I got an interview with him on videotape, which I had Fred Anderson, the former president of the State Legislature interviewed and handled him, moderated him, and so Sparks is going to be in the book that I'm doing. I've got him, Chips Barry, who is the head of Denver Water, is going to write that chapter

along with Harris Sherman, former Director of the Department of Natural Resources, is also helping on that one.

PS: Let's talk a little more about your career. That's really what we're here to talk about is you. You worked with municipal water.

DM: Municipal water quite extensively. I did that in Colorado, in Arizona, also in Texas and also back to Colorado.

PS: So you actually moved to Arizona and Texas?

DM: Yes, for a short period of time. Also I was in Oregon, but I did all the initiatives on amendments, referendums, and things to the Constitution in the various states, and here in Colorado, I've done nine of those, and I've won every one of them, all nine of them. You have my record, legislatively, there.

PS: As a young man, did you think you were going to be that interested in water?

DM: Yes, I got very interested. There were several professors at the University of Colorado who really led me to that kind of interest. I took this job with the Water Congress over late in 1979. The organization was in debt, \$18,000. It was going down the tubes. Everything wrong legally was wrong. The person that helped get it straightened out was John Sayre, a water attorney. He was former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science under the first Bush. And he's a good friend and I see him periodically. He's 84. Great, wonderful man.

PS: Talk a little bit more about your career. You moved around to all these other states? Why did you decide to do that?

DM: Most of the jobs that I had they came looking for me. And I never applied for them. They came to me. And because they were interested, I took the jobs and I felt there were new challenges. I love challenges. And when I took this job in the late 70s and early 80s, it was in very bad shape. Everything that could possibly be wrong in an organization was wrong legally. John Sayre can tell you all about that. Also, everything was wrong financially, and by the time I got done, I got everything straightened out. I have done nine statewide campaigns in Colorado. Won every one of them. 85% of everything on water I got passed, signed into law, and there's only 123 bills that I have opposed. I killed 122. I lost only one. So I enjoy tremendously politics and legislation.

PS: Why don't you talk about some of those bills? Do you remember which ones were particularly significant?

DM: In 1981, for example, we did a complete requantification of the water quality laws in this state, which was a very significant bill. Matter of fact, they were threatening about vetoing the bill and what have you, and I got all the sides together. I was also unusual; I've got the environmental groups into our organization. We're one of the few water organizations in the United States that has the water groups, Environmental Defense Fund and Sierra Club as members of our organization. I have one on Dan Luckey in there which he got fired and I said good things about him and he was very touched. But I play it very straight, upfront with people. I did another one in 1981, which I created the Water Resources and Power Development Authority in the state, Senate Bill 19. The one on water quality was Senate Bill 10. I have a good memory. In 1985, everybody couldn't believe this, but Governor Dick Lamm vetoed a key water bill and slammed down the phone on me and told me he was going to do it. I got so mad that I went to work and got a veto override which was unheard of.

PS: What bill was that? What was it about?

DM: It had to do with the Water Conservation Board and all the funding for the state water stuff in Colorado.

PS: Why did he want to veto that?

DM: He said we were taking away his powers. I got 65 members of the House, I needed 44. I got 57 to override the veto in the House. In the Senate, I needed 24. I got 27 out of 35 to override. He couldn't believe it. And he was so mad at me, when he saw me in the coffee shop, he just said we're just nothing but a bunch of goddamn water buffaloes. I got a hat over that to show you too. It got to be quite a joke because it was quite amusing. I have done a lot of major bills and key initiatives to the Constitution like complete reform of local government. In 1969 and 70 I got passed by a 66% margin of the people of Colorado.

PS: Helping local government, how?

DM: Big ways. We did everything for home rule, for cities, everything for counties on home rule, everything for inter-governmental relations, everything on contracts, money, the whole works. And I got it through. I got two Democrats and two Republicans, Bill Armstrong who became a state senator and a U.S. senator. John Vanderhoof was Governor of Colorado. I got two Democrats, Allen Dienz who was the Assistant Minority Leader and Hubb Saffron in the House. I stroked everybody and that's what it's about.

PS: You mentioned the term water buffaloes. I've heard that term and you were using it as a derogatory term.

DM: No, the Governor did. It was very amusing. He came down to our coffee shop in the State Capitol and saw me and said "you goddamn water buffaloes". He thought he was insulting me. I said, "You know, I kind of like the name. Thank you, Governor."

PS: Where did that term come from?

DM: It came from Dick Lamm. He was an idiot in some ways.

PS: I've heard that term in Arizona too.

DM: I know, it's spread all over the West. And it's gotten everywhere. And I've got a baseball hat on the water buffaloes, which has become so much of a joke all over the state here that nobody gets insulted or what have you. I take it humorously, and why not? I find you need to have in this business a sense of humor, because if you don't in politics, God help you. I told the President of the State Senate, a good friend, Evans, I'm gonna kill your bill. He testified first, I testified next. There's one thing I can do, and I joke about this, I can count. I got nine votes, killed the bill. He said to me, "Dick, you know what applies to you? Old age and treachery will win over youth and skill." I said "Thank you, Senator." I was highly amused but that was one of Sparks' favorite lines too.

PS: Looking back over your career and the history of water in Colorado, what projects or legal developments do you think have been the most important to make Colorado what it is today?

DM: Well, I think there are several of them. The key one is the poster award that I got is Lake Dillon, which you've gone by on I-70, I'm sure. And Lake Dillon was a key thing for water which Glenn Saunders was involved in, in the late 50s and the 60s. I remember when there was no water there. When the Blue River was a ditch. That's now a fine reservoir of 262 acre-feet. That's a big one. John Fetcher, if you've met him, is an incredible individual. He has four reservoirs he's been involved in.

PS: He only told us about two.

DM: Well, four. Steamboat Lake, which he won against the guy in Arizona in a poker game. Then Yamcola. Then Elk Head. And then the big thing, Elk Reservoir over by Craig, which he's also involved in. He's much too modest, he's an incredible guy. He also developed the ski mountain there too. I mean, here's a guy, January 1, 1912, that's his birthdate. I remember things very well.

PS: You mentioned Dillon Lake. Anything else that you think is really significant?

DM: The whole thing that Mr. Aspinall was involved in over by Gunnison in the Blue Mesa area over there on the Colorado River, which was part of the thing that he and Carl Hayden worked out in '68 in terms of all of these reservoirs that were done in Colorado.

PS: Was that in exchange for the Central Arizona Project?

DM: Yes, we got six, Central Arizona got one.

PS: One very big one.

DM: Yes, I understand....I've seen the TV things, I know quite a bit. I've had the gentleman who is head of the Central Arizona Project at my convention. I always make sure that I bring all of the out state people to come. Arizona, your guy was assistant director when...he's now dead, unfortunately. I had everybody on the Colorado River in 1971. I had Jerry Facett, who is the engineer for Wyoming. I had the key guy behind the old gentleman from New Mexico. I had Clark over in Utah, the lady who was head chairman, and then Zimmerman from California and I had the chief of the Navajos coming. Arizona said they weren't going to show. I have ways to get people to do things. And I said, "Well, if you guys aren't going to come, we'll let the chief of the Navajos speak on behalf of

Arizona.” And he went back to the powers that be, and he said, “I guess I’d better be there.” I said, “I guess you better be too.” I had that on a videotape. I have the whole thing, all these people.

PS: Who was that from Arizona?

DM: I don’t remember his name. That was 1991. He’s now dead. He was assistant, and then the lady that got in such fights with the gal from Nevada, Pat Mulroy, who is head of the thing in Las Vegas, and they just about went to a cat fight. I still have the Phoenix Gazette where they call her, Pat Mulroy, the ‘wicked woman of the west’, in terms of water. Because of the things, you know, you’re part of the Lower Basin, that is Nevada, California and Arizona. Your dividing line is up there in Arizona. I was up at Page when that was being developed. I was there when it was nothing, and I knew the old boy. He’s 97; he’s the Director and head of the Bureau of Reclamation. He’s in one of those books there. That is incredible. I had him at one of my conventions in 1999 and John Fetcher was the guy that got him there because they were on the same tour bus in Italy. They were fascinating people, just great, great wonderful people.

PS: You’ve been involved in a lot of the history of water here.

DM: That’s why I’m doing the book.

PS: Are there any particular milestones that you’d want to talk about for our videotape here?

DM: I think the biggest things have been the initiatives that I’ve helped defeat. We’ve had some very bad ones on water. 15 and 16, which would have taken the water out of the San Luis Valley in Colorado and kill them down in southern Colorado. And we defeated that by a 79% vote.

PS: When was that?

DM: That was '96. That was a big victory. My wife was the office manager. She's now the officer manager for the Colorado Water Congress. She just celebrated here a little while ago. She's 66, she's an artist, she was down in Taos, and she sings solos at church. My friends, who are good Catholics, call us, because we are Episcopalians, Catholics without guilt.

PS: How have you seen water issues change during your career?

DM: I think the biggest change has been the fact that people aren't quite as vigorous in going to fistcuffs. It used to be a very violent thing, literally. People think you're joking. Had fistfights. I had a rancher haul off and slug a water lawyer right in the snout locker. That's a blunt way to put it, but he hit him right in the nose. And I had 35 lawyers arguing about where the article "the" is in a sentence. Unbelievable, as it is. But we've had vigorous fights.

PS: And you don't see that any more?

DM: No, we don't have the shouting down matches that we used to have. When I first got in this business, I mean there were people had shouting matches and shouted at each other, and threatened to kill each other.

PS: I hear people talk about the good ole days of water politics when things got done. That doesn't sound like the good ole days.

DM: Well, it depends. Things did get done.

PS: Were there good ole days of water politics?

DM: Yeah. There were things like Dillon Reservoir. That was the late 50s and early 60s. And you didn't have all the environmental laws that existed, like the Endangered Species Act or all the things, 63, 64, 66, all the demands that were placed on the federal government on water issues. Those aren't there anymore.

PS: So do you think those were really good ole days then?

DM: In some ways, they were. They were exciting days. Because people really got outspoken, said what they thought, and now we're more quiet and we're not quite as vigorous in getting our opinions out, and being as violent as we used to be. Which is maybe good or bad, depending on one's viewpoint, but I think that in some ways, it was kind of exciting when you have these knock down, drag out fights. I've had meetings where I've taken water lawyers out of the room, put their arm up behind their back, and said if you say one more word, I'm gonna break your arm.

PS: Another thing that we've talked about to people is the end of the big water projects. Some people don't think we'll see any more big water projects.

DM: I'm not sure I agree with that. There's an interesting thing by this gentleman from Fort Collins, who's got this pipeline, \$400 billion pipeline, goes from the Green River, goes across Wyoming, and down the Front Range of Colorado, just east of Fort Collins, Loveland, Denver, Douglas County, on to Pueblo, which is rather intriguing. He has a proposal. It's been in the magazine, *Colorado Business*, which is a magazine that is put out by a kind of business oriented magazine. And there's quite a bit on that particular endeavor also. I would like to meet with this person, because he's got some problems. As Russ George says, he's got a problem with a State Supreme Court case.

PS: So do you think big water projects like that are possible today?

DM: Yes, I do.

PS: Why do you think so many people say they aren't?

DM: Because I don't think that people are being, possessing a vision, and a vision of the future as to what can be done and how to do it. And I think it can be done and will be done. If you read that last editorial that I wrote, there's several things that I say in there. One, we don't take into consideration some of the work of the environmentalists like on ecology. After all, it was in Arizona and the Grand Canyon where they were killing off the mountain lion and they realize they were not helping the deer herd. The deer were being fruitful and multiplying. And they realized they had to do something to be not quite as destructive to the mountain lion, which is the natural predator to the deer herds in the Grand Canyon. There's things like compromise. Very few people have ever read James Madison's 2002 page diary of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, and all the compromises that took place in that particular endeavor. I think if we recognize some of the environmental concerns, recognize some of the compromises that can be made, we've got a history of doing that. We can do things in terms of politics and not being quite as rabid. If we keep those things in mind, we can get a lot of things done. I'm convinced of it. And there's another thing to remember about vision. It's like in Proverbs. Where there is no vision, the people perish. We gotta remember that. We got to have a vision on things. And I'm convinced that we can. And I'm willing to do everything that I can do, even though I'm in my mature youth now, to see that we have a vision for things. I told you about Ken Salazar and John Salazar. I went down to meet them in 1969 when they were kids, before Ken became a senator, before he became Director of the Department of Natural Resources and before he became Attorney General. And Ken would listen to me. Ken calls me, incidentally, Grandpa, which I take in a flattering way. I knew his three brothers. There were four boys and four girls, and their father, Henry, who now has unfortunately passed on. Their mother, Emma, is a saint. They lived down in Manassa, Colorado which is down by the

New Mexico state line. Manassa is where Jack Dempsey came from, heavyweight fighter.

PS: You mentioned in passing there about the environmental issues and things. Is that something that's been new? Over the years, it seems like water issues have been between municipal and agricultural uses, but more recently we've heard more from environmental and recreational uses. Talk about how that's changed.

DM: It hasn't really changed. The environmental movement came out certainly during the 60s. It was the real grass roots movement and you had a lot of the federal laws that were passed by the Congress of the United States on the endangered species. All of these things in terms of what went on in Page when you had that great water up there at Glen Canyon Dam. You had all of that, and you had the great battle between Floyd Dominy who was the manager of Bureau of Reclamation and the Sierra Club guy. And they battled, but Dominy outfoxed him.

PS: How did he outfox him?

DM: Politics. And he also outfoxed because Dominy was able to manipulate Carl Hayden and Wayne Aspinall, two key members of the Congress of the United States. As you know, Carl Hayden was first a representative and he entered the Congress in 1912. Wayne Aspinall, from Palisade, Colorado, which is a small town over there by Grand Junction. Both were very politically toward water development. As you well know, Hayden was very key and sat on the Appropriations Committee in the Senate in terms of the Central Arizona Project. Arizona needed the Central Arizona Project and there were six big sites in Colorado that Aspinall needed and he got done. It was politics.

PS: Do you think the recreational people and the environmental people today have more power than they used to?

DM: Yes and no. I know it's quite hard to understand, but environmental and recreational groups tend to have their own fights within themselves. Mark Twain had the great quote, "Whiskey's for drinking and water's for fighting". And there's a lot of that been going on. And knowing where those fights are and how to unravel them and how to do things is the key. These panels that we have, I make sure that the environmental groups are there. They're not left out. And one of the things I listen to, one of the key people, was the now Congressman, he was a State Senator, Jim Costa from California, of how they brought the environmental groups in. And I got him twice as a speaker, and that made more sense to people, because he had a message there, good political hard sense, and made all the difference in the world. This guy was a key on the big water project the younger Brown needed very badly. Costa was there and got it done. But he got the message out to my people and there's nothing like when people hear from one of their people that they can relate to and respect. Makes all the difference in the world.

PS: I've been asking a lot of people and had some interesting answers. The appropriations doctrine for water, first in time, first in right, do you think that's going to survive the new demands?

DM: Oh yes. You'll get a good hearing on that from Justice Hobbs. He has done a great deal of research on that particular subject. He's been in the State Supreme Court for five years and five months. May 1 he went in.

PS: Is there some movement to try to change that?

DM: No, there was at one time. But we made sure it wasn't going to happen.

PS: Why do you think it's important that it not happen?

DM: Because it's worked well in Colorado and you have to bring all the groups to the table. You have to have agriculture, you have to have environmental, you have to have governmental; you have to have all the different groups. The different geographical areas in the state all understand how important it is. And if I have to go and talk to somebody on a one on one basis, if it takes six hours or eight hours, I'll do it.

PS: This first in time doctrine is key to all of that?

DM: It's true. That goes way back.

PS: The other thing that goes way back that some people say maybe should be looked at again is the Water Compact of the Colorado River of 1922.

DM: I know, but that's not gonna happen. You need to talk to Dan Tyler and you need to look at that book that I showed you. Delph Carpenter from Greeley was the key guy on the Colorado River Compact. He understood it thoroughly. He was a State Senator and a very bright man, a lawyer. But he got the Colorado River Compact done. As you know, it was all done down in New Mexico at Santa Fe. And he got everybody in sync on that.

PS: You don't think there'd be any good reason to reopen it and renegotiate it today?

DM: No. No. No. We're not going to open up that can.

PS: What direction do you see the water issues taking in the near future and then in the more distant future?

DM: Let's talk about 2025, because that's probably one of the important issues in terms of the things I'm looking at. The universities are doing stuff in this area, and they need to be in the leadership, the academic world, and they have a lot to offer. I've gone out and courted the head of the water effort at Colorado, made him an honorary life member, and he was very touched by that.

PS: Who was that?

DM: It was Robert Ward. He was Director of the Water Research Institute. Then I got Dr. Yates, who is President of Colorado State University. He turned me down twice as a speaker. He said "I don't want to talk about water." I said, "Dr. Yates, I want you to talk about something different. Something that also gets involved on this subject, and I know that you want to do something in that area because I know you're trying to do it at CSU." He said, "What's that?" Leadership. He spoke on leadership. When he got done with our convention, he's a black man, a chemist, they gave him a standing ovation. It was that fantastic.

PS: Why don't you tell me a little bit more about the water conference, when did it start and how does it work?

DM: It got formed in 1958. Two individuals who were both leaders in the state, one was Steve McNichols, the Democrat who was Governor. The other was a Republican Attorney General, Duke Dunbar. I knew them both. And they wanted to see things go forward, not sitting on our duffs, so to speak, not doing it, but they got things going behind the scenes. And so in 1958 down in Durango, we formed the Colorado Water Congress. Then we created, through a special law, was bi-partisan, a way that we could bring money going into the Colorado Water Congress in the state of Colorado. And that was passed in '59.

PS: How does that work with getting funding?

DM: It's in there. In the law. Through the Water Conservation Board. Any entity, city, county, any associations can put money in dues. That was not allowed before. So now you can.

PS: Is it voluntary?

DM: Yes, it's all voluntary. The Water Congress is strictly voluntary. Any organization that wants to drop out, they can. But the funny thing is, my dear, they decide they're gonna be in there because if they're out of sight, out of mind, so they're there to watch themselves and protect themselves and also get things done.

PM: How many members do you have?

DM: 457.

PS: Are they individual members or organizational members?

DM: Organizational and individual.

PS: What is succinctly the purpose of the Water Congress?

DM: We're probably the most politically involved of any organization. It means legislation, watching things in the Legislature, issues that are going through the ballot which we have been involved in for the people, and the people vote on it. .

PS: So you're primarily a political lobbying organization?

DM: Yeah, and also workshops, seminars, and conventions. We videotape this stuff and we make sure people have an opportunity to be scholarshipped in

there. Scholarships are also in the directory that I gave you and all about how the organization was formed and how it got done. And it's being what's called if you push on something and have a vision on something, you'll get done. You don't sit on your hands. He or she who wants to work gets something done. You read that one paper from the Washington Park paper there; you'll see what I say. It's called work, work, work.

PS: It was formed in 1958?

DM: Yes.

PS: And you took over as the Director in 1981?

DM: 1979. It was \$18,000 in debt and everything was fouled up. And I got it into the black the first year.

PS: How did you do that?

DM: Worked.

PS: Okay, what did you do when you worked?

DM: I got every way I could figure out how to raise money. I raised money. I went and talked to everybody. All over the state. If you want something on this issue, then you have to contribute. And they believed me.

PS: Why would you take a job like that if you knew this organization had such serious problems?

DM: I was talked out of it by several good friends. I saw it as a challenge. And I love challenges. I had good friends who said it's going down the tubes, don't do it. I jumped in and I won.

PS: So tell me about how it changed over those years that you were Director. How did it grow and change?

DM: It became a really exciting organization because people really started believing we could do things and when they saw things get accomplished, politically or statewide. In '66, we had an amendment to limit taxes, which would have affected all water stuff in Colorado. And I took on the business community, CACI, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry. They had a stupid amendment 5, which I defeated at the polls, 386,000 to 179,000. I'm very good at campaigns and simple things. I would go over things like this is a tax shift. Then I'd plant with my news media buddies and I'd say this is a tax shaft. And they loved it. It went from tax shift to tax shaft. And it worked.

PS: As you were working on all of these issues, who did you find were your greatest allies?

DM: There are certain water people who wanted to see things go ahead. Larry Simpson, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, who is now retired up there, he was General Manager. He's the guy that talked me into the job to begin with. He had worked with me because I was with the Council of Governments up in that area and he saw how I took everything and got everybody working together. I got Criminal Justice, Aging, Human Resources, Transportation, I won them all. There's nothing that works better than winning.

PS: Who were your opponents that you had to win over?

DM: Just some people are just...you know, let's not do it that way. We can't do anything different. There are those that are the aginners that don't want to do anything. There are just those kind of people.

PS: Looking back over your long career, what accomplishments related to Colorado water are you proudest of?

DM: Leaving a good organization strong, money-wise and with a credible, political record. I can look at that blue sheet and show you what we do. That makes all the difference in the world. The fact that I've done nine statewide campaigns and won all of them. I've only lost one time that I've had a bill opposed. I've got every key bill for anything that anybody wanted done.

PS: Is there anything you would have done differently?

DM: No.

PS: What about surprises? Is there anything that surprised you about the way things have turned out with water in Colorado?

DM: Well, there are some people, I call the aginners. They're just against anything. That's not a real surprise. I have very good political sense and I will go out of my way to talk to people. I will go up here to this restaurant, Piccolo's up here, and start talking to people at the bar. I went down to Balize and the lady there I got talking to was the number two person in New Mexico on finance and her husband was the Deputy Commissioner of Land Development in New Mexico, but I find out all these people.

PS: What do you see today are the major issues, challenges, related to the Colorado water resources that are most critical?

DM: The biggest issue is gonna be coming up with the money to fund all this stuff that needs to be funded.

PS: First, they have to agree on what to fund.

DM: I understand that too. But you've got to convince people about that and if they want their best interests at stake. You know, when I have these panels like the panel that Russ George had, and I knew Russ before he went to law school, 1960s, and I remember when he came back out of Harvard Law School, and there was a key bill, and I said "you've gotta get over there and talk to them, Russ." He said "I don't know whether I want to." I said, "Well, I want you over there." I practically turned his arm around his back until he was there. He says, "You have a way about you."

PS: Looking broader at water issues facing the southwest region, how do you see the water issues facing this whole seven state region impacting Colorado's future?

DM: One of the big issues is going to be the Colorado River. It's going to be a very, very big issue. We've got a very good negotiator, which I hope you've talked to, Jim Lockett, very, very good. He's represented a lot of interests in Colorado. He was Director of the Department of Natural Resources. He's a lawyer, but a smooth one, and he's very calm, good demeanor and has a good way of doing things. I will push him for all he's worth. And push these people and talk him up.

PS: What advice do you have for people that are operating Colorado's water resources today?

DM: Work, work, work. You've got to work at it. You've got to keep working. You never, ever give up. Never, ever give up.

PS: I think I've covered the questions I've got here. Was there anything you wanted to talk about that I didn't ask you? Why are you writing a book?

DM: I was out at the Aspinall groundbreaking and everybody that saw me out there said, "Well, Dick, why don't you write a book?" I sat there and I thought to myself, there's a better way to do this. I will get each individual or individuals to write the chapter on the individual. I know how many words, I know what I want. I got Russ George, who's the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, former Speaker, and a fundraiser, he got so excited about this that I've got him helping on the foreword on this thing.

PS: Do you have a publisher?

DM: Yes.

PS: When's it going to be out? I want a copy.

DM: It's going to be about two and a half years. I've got 19 people. I've got Dick Braden, who's the Commissioner on the Upper Colorado River Compact Commission, appointed by the President. Carol Edmond Sullivan and Bill Cleary, who's the former aide of Wayne Aspinall, doing him. Chips Barry, head of Denver Water and Harris Sherman who used to be the head of Department of Natural Resources, they're doing Felix Sparks. Scott Balcomb, I conned him into doing his father, Old Blue, because I knew Old Blue. Old Blue is, unfortunately, passed on now. He was a tough son of a gun. I've got Sara Duncan with Denver Water who used to be down in Durango and Tom Shipps, who's a partner of Sam Maynes, who was heavily involved down in the Durango area doing Sam. And I've got John Porter; I've already started marking up his thing on Fred Kroeger. Fred has been involved in the Southwestern Water Conservation District in Durango for almost 50 years. I've got the other individuals. Dan Tyler is working

on Delph Carpenter. I knew Delph's son, who was a water judge up in Weld County. He's dead now, unfortunately, but I used to know him. I used to come down in the Legislature coffee shop and he was something else. Delph's son he took to the Compact meetings in 1922. He said that'll do you more good than going to school. And so his son went to those meetings of the Compact Commission.

PS: And his son is still alive?

DM: No, he's dead now. But I knew him. It was another great coffee drinking buddy in the coffee shop at the Capitol. But I know everybody that's going to be in this book. I knew personally Jack Ross who is a partner of Glenn Saunders and is doing Glenn. All of these people are going to be in this book.

PS: Really could be a history book.

DM: Well, it's the people that know these people best of all and I can talk to them in a way that few people can talk to them and convince them what they're going to do.

PS: I think we're going to have to wrap up. We're out of tape and I'm sure you've got a lot of things to do here.