

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 11, 1954

PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Knopf:

Grayson Kirk has forwarded to me your letter of the fourth. I understand and sympathize with your concern that the Echo Park and Split Mountain Dams would alter the appearance of the Dinosaur National Monument. However, I am given convincing evidence that the damage to the natural beauty of the area resulting from the construction of the Dam will be minor in comparison to the tremendous amount of economic value in the Upper Colorado Basin as a whole. It is evident from the report before me that any alternative development would result in substantial loss of the comprehensive benefits which will accrue from the building of the two Dams in question.

I am further impressed with the fact that, according to my information, the Governors and Members of Congress from this area are in substantial agreement that the plans recommended by the engineers should be accepted. With this in mind, coupled with the verdict of the experts in the field, I do not feel that I can properly interfere. I should like to assure you that the Administration will continue to stand firmly against any unnecessary invasion of the National Parks system. As a matter of fact, my latest report shows an increase in National Parks acreage since a year ago.

With warm regard,

Mr. Alfred A.  
501 Madison Ave  
New York, New