

# The Week

## In Engineering and Construction

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### Missouri Valley Authority proposed by President

**Coordinated development of the Missouri River basin recommended to Congress to be carried out by an agency similar to the TVA.**

As Congress on Sept. 21 was about to begin its November election recess, President Roosevelt sent a message to the Hill recommending the establishment of a Missouri Valley Authority, patterned after the authority established in the Tennessee valley in 1933. At the same time he reiterated earlier requests that consideration be given to the creation of similar authorities for the Arkansas and Columbia River basins. A number of bills for creation of a Missouri Valley Authority were pending in Congress at the time the President expressed his views.

Mr. Roosevelt based his recommendation on a resolution, which he attached to his message, that had been adopted by the governors of eight of the nine Missouri River basin states and by members of the Missouri River States Committee at a meeting held last month in Omaha, Neb. In doing so, he referred to those portions of the resolution that ask that "it be recognized that we are dealing with one river and one problem," that "there can be no piecemeal legislative program," and that there must be an overall comprehensive plan . . .

#### Proposal of the governors

The President in his message inferred that the resolution advocated creation of a Missouri Valley Authority. As a matter of fact, however, the resolution makes no reference whatsoever to the authority idea, either directly or by inference. Instead, it clearly indicates that the governors anticipate that the river's resources should be developed through coordination of the operation of the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. The resolution calls on the President and Congress to bring these two agencies "to bring before Congress a coordinated plan, based on the proposed legislation and official

documents heretofore mentioned [the omnibus flood-control bill, as it concerns the Missouri River, and Senate Document 191, which contains the bureau's plan for the basin] which will

make possible the authorization by the Congress, now, of the Missouri River basin development program in its entirety by such amendments to legislation now pending as are feasible from the standpoint of legislative procedures."

#### No basic differences

In discussions of the proposals made by the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation for development of the Missouri River, representatives of both agencies have pointed out that the differences between their plans can be ironed out. However, the two agencies

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### Pontoon swing span converted to fixed bridge

By raising this old pontoon-supported swing bridge 11 ft. and moving it 39 ft. downstream, the City of Chicago, Department of Public Works, improved navigation on the Calumet River and, at the same time, provided a temporary bridge in anticipation of early postwar construction of a new fixed bridge over the river at 130th St.

The 103-ft. long, 20-ft. roadway, 135-ton truss span was raised by successively dewatering and refilling the center compartment of the old pontoon barge to make it

function as a hydraulic lifting device. Truss ends were lifted alternately in 3-ft. stages, using two lifts. Timber cribbing was built up on the deck of the ponton barge as lifting continued, while other cribbing was added under the truss ends to support them.

After the old truss had been raised to a 17-ft. clearance above the river it was moved to its new location in 35 min. One large barge near mid-stream supported most of the weight, while the old pontoon barge carried the far end and kept the span balanced.