

# Skeptical Over Pyramid Lake

Senator John V. Tunney, (D-Calif.) has expressed skepticism over the Justice Department's Pyramid Lake case filed September 22 in the Supreme Court.

"Pyramid Lake, probably the most valuable asset to the Paiute Indian Reservation, has long been caught between interests of the Interior and Justice De-

partments," the Senator said.

"Ever since the Newlands Reclamation Project was constructed over 70 years ago, water has been diverted from the lake's only source - the Truckee River.

"Clearly, the legal rights of the Indians to water were never considered. It appears that the Justice Department's case may not have been framed in such a way as to best protect these rights.

"I will personally study the pleadings of the Justice Department because I have seen in the past the Government of advocacy become the Government of opposition when Indian Rights are involved," the Senator concluded by saying that he is considering introducing legislation to affirm the rights of the

Paiutes to use of the water of the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake.