The resulting flood waters, however, are only partially contained. A major fraction is wasted. Appropriate catchment basins could provide an early and cheap supply.

The distribution of water is becoming more and more important in the United States also. The most ambitious plan of conducting the water of the Feather River into the central valley and to the neighborhood of Los Angeles and San Diego is most impressive, both because of its cost and its beneficial effects. There is some preliminary consideration being given to the question of whether or not portions of this project could be more cheaply executed with the help of Plowshare. If this enterprise is to be carried out, clean and cheap nuclear explosives will be most urgently needed.

Water regulation of still another type can be illustrated in connection with the Rampart project in Alaska. The Yukon River flowing west from Canada into Alaska breaks through a mountain range in a canyon by the name of Rampart, northwest of Fairbanks. It would be easily possible to close this canyon with the help of nuclear explosions and to divert the Yukon River to its somewhat older tertiary bed, which is parallel and a little south of the present course of the river. On an appropriate place in this new bed one can erect hydroelectric installations before the river is deflected. The lake which will form behind the dam would stretch all the way back to the Canadian border and would cover a territory of wet permafrost in which no cultivation is possible, no buildings can be erected, and over which a vehicle cannot pass more than once without getting mired. If this practically uninhabitable region is covered with water, some improvement of the climate can be expected. But it is more important that the dam would provide twice as much hydroelectric power as the Coulee Dam. At present Alaska is of course not capable of absorbing so much power. But the formation of the lake would take ten