

Proposal to Divert Columbia River Water Into Southern California To Be Studied by Reclamation Bureau

By VERN HAUGHLAND

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—(AP)—A plan to move part of the Columbia River's water possibly more than 1,000 miles southward into Southern California came up for serious study yesterday.

The mighty Columbia—the border between Washington and Oregon—wastes into the Pacific Ocean ten times the amount of water produced by the Colorado River, from which comes much of Southern California's supply.

Reclamation Commissioner Michael W. Strauss said the giant diversion proposal is referred to by engineers as the "United Western" plan. He told a reporter:

"The bureau has informed Congress it intends to use certain money for and is now starting a pre-reconnaissance survey to see whether the proposal stands up under close and critical observation."

Chairman Welch (R-Calif.) of the House Public Lands Committee introduced a bill last year to authorize a survey to see if Columbia River waters could be turned to Southern California.

Engineers, in exploring "paper studies," consider two alternatives.

1. Direct movement of surplus waters from the Lower Columbia, along a system of canals, tunnels and reservoirs, through California's Central Valley and under the Tehachapi Mountain range into the Los Angeles area.

2. A sawtooth exchange system. The Columbia River waters would be diverted into the Central Valley system. The Central Valley, in turn, would release a like amount of water from the Sierra Nevada streams into channels leading to Southern California.

The Southern California supplemental supply, in its turn, might ease somewhat the water shortages of Arizona and other Colorado River basin states.

It also would enable the United States more easily to meet treaty requirements that 1,500,000-acre feet of Columbia River be moved across the border annually into Mexico.

Secretary of the Interior Krug is expected soon to appoint four reclamation experts to work with men in each of the reclamation regions involved, in a two-or-three-year study of the proposals.

A field office probably will be set up at Salt Lake City. Congress has set aside \$100,000 for the studies.

Dream Long Standing
It has long been a dream of engineers to make use of the 160,000,000 to 170,000,000 acre-feet of water spilled by the Lower Columbia each year into the sea.

Their current dreams are in terms of what amount one-tenth of that amount of water could do for the agricultural and industrial Southwest. The average flow of the Colorado River is 15,000,000 to 18,000,000 acre-feet a year.

Engineers say the project unquestionably would be very expensive, dwarfing in cost anything yet done in reclamation development. It would have to be a piece-meal enterprise with an over-all, long-range integration, they add.

The purpose of the first survey is to determine the practicality and the cost, and decide whether further surveys would be worth while.

AF of L in California Backs Demo Candidates

LONG BEACH, Calif., Sept. 28.—(AP)—President Truman and his Democratic Vice Presidential running mate, Sen. Alben Barkley, have the endorsement of the AFL-California State Federation of Labor.

The support was given on a voice vote by more than 3,000 delegates to the Federation's 46th annual convention yesterday.

Train Derailment in Klamath Falls Averted

KLAMATH FALLS, Sept. 29.—(AP)—An apparent attempt to derail a Southern Pacific train Monday night was uncovered by a freight engineer who stopped his train before hitting an angle iron placed on a rail at the edge of the yard here.

C. W. Champlin, S. P. special officer, said he had information that the angle iron was put on

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OUT OUR WAY



By J. R. Williams

Documents Left By Discoverer Of North Pole Found

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—(AP)

—The State Department said yesterday a United States expedition to the Arctic last summer found documents left in 1906 by Rear Adm. Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole.

An announcement, made jointly with the Canadian government, said three Navy and Coast Guard vessels also had discovered records left by the British explorer Sir George Nares in 1875 and 1876.

The brief statement gave no details. It said "as is usual on Northern expeditions, Peary's notes found in the cairn were replaced by appropriate documents." The Navy now has the originals.

The spot where the documents were located is in the extreme northern part of Canada on Ellesmere Island about 450 miles from the North Pole.

Peary visited the area in 1905 and 1906. He reached the North Pole on another trip in 1909. A member of the expedition, who asked not to be named, told a reporter the Peary papers—one in a Peary's handwriting—were found in a whisky bottle. The handwritten report told of Peary's arrival there and listed the roster of his ship, the Roosevelt.

The only other document was a printed brochure of the "Peary Arctic Club" organized by wealthy New Yorkers to support Peary's explorations.

The record left by the British explorer, Nares, listed the roster of his ship and told of some deaths among his crew.

Berliners Lose Faith In Russian-Issued Money

BERLIN, Sept. 29.—(AP)—Berliners have lost some of their faith in Russian-issued marks since the latest blowup of four-power talks on the blockade of the former German capital.

It became apparent today that the so-called East marks issued by the Soviet authorities are steadily dropping in value.

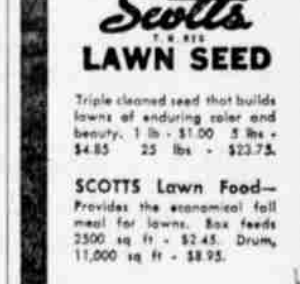
While there still seemed hope the four occupying nations were getting somewhere in their conversations about lifting the Soviet-imposed blockade of Berlin, the Russian "ostmark" was being traded at the rate of between two and three for one West mark. As of Monday night, the ostmark was quoted at 3.9 to one Deutsche mark. This is almost the lowest point the Soviet mark has reached since midsummer a short time after the dual East-West currency reform.

ONE HELL TOO MANY

BRISTON, Eng., Sept. 28.—(AP)—Army Sergeant Kenneth F. Willis testified in divorce court today his wife doused him with kerosene and tried to set him on fire. The sergeant got his decree.

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Episcopal Church Dates Start Of Radio Programs

On Friday, Oct. 1, the Episcopal

Church will begin on the air with its first regular weekly nationwide network program on the coast-to-coast Mutual Broadcasting System of 500 stations. The program may be heard over KRNR from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Father William Blaker, rector of St. George's Episcopal Church, announced.

The weekly half-hour series is put on the air by the National Council of the Episcopal Church with the cooperation of the Episcopal Actors' Guild, which includes in its membership some 800 famous names of stage and screen, and is headed by the producer, Vinton Freedley.

The programs to be presented represent a complete innovation in church radio, it is announced. Since the church has always been a great patron of the arts and was largely responsible for the development of the theater, it is almost inevitable that the dramatic plays of all time the best possible vehicle for the Christian messages she has to give.

A spokesman for the Episcopal Church headquarters in New York City said, "The program is not aimed at the saints, but at the unchurched millions. Non-church people will not, voluntarily, tune in on a religious radio program; hence the usual type of program, consisting of a church service, with hymns, sermon and prayers, may be of value to Christian people who cannot attend church, and others, but it has no power whatsoever to evangelize; that is, to go to those outside of the church and draw them in."

Strike Cuts Fresh Food for Yankees in the Far East

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 28.—(AP)—American soldiers in the Far East will have less fresh food next month as a result of the 26-day-old West Coast maritime tie-up. Brig. Gen. Paul F. Yount says.

The general, commander of the Army Transportation Corps, said yesterday that at best the Army can carry in its own refrigerated ships about four-fifths of normal supplies. Private shipping firms normally carry such refrigerated cargoes for the Army, but have

Red 'Domination' Of CIO Union Is Told to Probers

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—(AP)

James J. Conroy, who identified himself as a former Communist, yesterday described the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (CIO) as "the largest Communist-dominated organization in the United States."

Conroy testified before a House Labor subcommittee which is inquiring into Communist influence in labor unions.

The committee promptly called James J. Matles, director of organization for the Electrical Workers, to its witness stand. Matles refused on constitutional grounds to say whether he is or ever was a Communist.

To give an answer, Matles said, "would betray my people and my union."

While Conroy called the Electrical Workers Union "Communist dominated," he said his testimony "in no way reflects upon 99 per cent of the approximately 600,000 members 'who are loyal to their God and their country.'"

Although Matles would not say whether he is or has been a Communist, he declared Conroy "is lying."

Addressing Chairman Keesten (R-Wis.), Matles said: "Conroy comes from the gutter. He is a management man who tried to wreck our union. He stands for everything that

Rampant Monkey Creates Uproar In Spree of Pranks

LONG BEACH, Calif., Sept. 29.

—(AP)—Jocko the monkey had more fun than a barrel of people Monday.

In a burst of Simian slapstick, Jocko—a 15-pound brown monkey of doubtful pedigree, ownership and intentions—turned the normal quietude of North Long Beach into day-long uproar.

He started the day by jumping through a window and climbing into bed with Dick Cowan Jr., 12. With the Cowans in full pursuit, he dashed next door to arouse the William Bryants, turn on all faucets, level lamps and pictures, and scampered to the garage where—

He upset bottles and sacks of rabbit feed and overturned an oil drum. Then he found a box of matches, which he struck and tossed one by one—setting fire to the canvas top of Bryant's Jeep.

By now other neighbors were awake. One, Jane Hall, 15, tendered a bunch of grapes. Jocko jumped into her arms to munch.

But not for long. As Robert Brasher, Long Beach pound attendant, drove up, Jocko took to a tree. Recognition was mutual. Brasher displayed scars on his hand where he said Jocko had bitten him in a previous encounter.

Jocko, making horrendous faces, refused to come down so long as Brasher was around. The man hid and Jane held out more grapes. Jocko scooted down, grabbed the grapes and hopped back into the tree.

One way or another, he eluded capture all day until—roughly 10 hours later—an old man came by, whistled twice, and Jocko hopped on his shoulder. The pair went off down the street together.

Brasher was so relieved and police so flabbergasted they forgot to get the man's name.

It is evil, just like you do, Mr. Chairman."

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Hartley Favors Special Session To Deal With Strike

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—(AP)

Chairman Hartley (R-N.J.) of the House Labor Committee said yesterday he favors a special session of Congress to deal with problems of the West Coast Longshoremen's Strike if it can't be settled otherwise.

Hartley told a news conference that President Truman has exhausted all routine provisions of the Taft-Hartley Labor Law for patching up the 26-day dock controversy. The only thing is co-author of that law.

The only thing possible now, Hartley said, is a report to Congress with a request for additional legislative action.

He also recommended that Mr. Truman appoint fact-finding boards under the Labor Law to inquire into the 25-day oil industry strike on the west coast, as well as a threatened nationwide strike of some railroad workers.

Reviewing the past year's history of the Taft-Hartley Law, he said he believes organized labor is "making its greatest mistake" in opposing members of Congress who voted for the law. He predicted labor is "going down to ignominious defeat" in the November elections.

"Purge campaigns are rarely successful," he said.

Hartley is not running for reelection.

Soviet to Build Oil Plant With Looted Equipment

BERLIN, Sept. 28.—(AP)—The

Russians are planning construction of a big oil refinery in Siberia with equipment taken from Eastern Germany, the American Military Government's official German newspaper said today.

The newspaper, Neue Zeitung, said the Russians had already carted off three German plants for this purpose. Four more in the Soviet occupation zone are ticketed for removal in the winter or spring.

Boy, on Way to Church, Finds \$1,000 in Bills

SEATTLE, Sept. 28.—(AP)—Four-

teen-year-old Jimmy Buschman kept his fingers crossed today wondering whether he can keep a wad of bills, totaling about \$1,000, he found in a vacant lot Saturday.

He and his mother, Mrs. Mercedes Buschman, were walking to Seventh Day Adventist Church services when his sharp eyes spotted them.

"Look, mom!" he exclaimed. "It's money."

He picked up the rain-soaked bills and his mother stuffed them in her purse.

After church, they inserted a lost and found ad in a newspaper, which said that the owner must identify fairly completely the amount of money and the location where found. Only one man had answered today, saying he had lost \$16.

NAZI-WRECKED SCHOOLS
WARSAW.—(AP)—The Germans destroyed 7,821 school buildings during the war, figures released by the ministry of education show. Of those, 6,842 were grammar schools; 263 secondary; 294 professional; 80 teachers' seminaries and 337 nursery schools.

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