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CHARLES V. STANTON
Editor

EDWIN L. KNAPP
Manager

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WISE RESOURCE USE

By Charles V. Stanton

The Pelton dam project struck another snag last week. The Oregon State Hydroelectric Commission denied the request of the Portland General Electric Company for a permit to build its \$23,000,000 project.

Construction of Pelton dam in the Deschutes River has been vigorously opposed by the Oregon Game Commission and the Oregon Fish Commission. It is contended that the Deschutes is one of the principal nursery streams for the Columbia River's salmon industry and that irreparable damage would result from a high dam.

Commenting on the commission's decision, *The Oregon Journal*, which has consistently favored the project, said editorially:

What the state hydroelectric commission has done in denying the permit to develop Deschutes river power sites, is to say in effect that the Deschutes is a one-purpose stream, and that no other purpose can be served, regardless of its economic values.

With all due respect to *The Journal's* editorial writer and his opinions, the Commission said no such thing, nor does its denial of a permit convey any such implication.

The statement by *The Journal's* editorial writer might be correct if there were no method by which to develop power other than by high dams, but such is not the case.

High Dams Not Necessary

Because the Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Army Engineers are striving their utmost to build monumental structures of such gigantic size as to amaze men's minds, too many of us have concluded that high dams are an essential part of power production.

But long before we had high dams, we were managing to obtain power from low dams.

We are not familiar with the proposed Pelton site. The Deschutes River, however, is a stream of rapid water. It rises at an elevation in excess of 4,000 feet. It drops almost to sea level before joining the Columbia River. On any such river it becomes possible to erect diversion dams, turn water into conduits and transport it to a power site. In many cases, such construction is cheaper than high dams. Adequate fishways may be built over low dams with but little impairment of a stream's capacity for fish production.

The California Oregon Power Company is ably demonstrating in its North Umpqua development how water may be diverted by tunnel, ditch, and penstock and used over and over again in power production and without the use of high dams. Had federal agencies attempted this same production job, undoubtedly a dam seven or eight hundred feet in height would have been built in the deep, perpendicular Umpqua Canyon.

Preserve Resource Values

What Copco has done on the Umpqua, PGE undoubtedly can do on the Deschutes if it will drop its stubborn insistence for a destructive high dam. It may be that the diversion plan would be more expensive. Perhaps it might be somewhat less productive. On the other hand, we imagine the diversion project would cost less than the high dam and would be almost as efficient. At the same time the very valuable fishery resource of the Deschutes River would be but slightly impaired.

Oregon is facing a water crisis. In many spots we are permitting appropriations for irrigation and other purposes to exceed the minimum flow. We have seen the whole upper basin of the Columbia River destroyed as salmon spawning area because of high dams. It was proposed that the Columbia and its tributaries below Bonneville should be left as a sanctuary for preservation of the fishery industry. Now we are continually threatened by invasions of that sanctuary. More and more industries are utilizing water from our streams. The industrial demand will grow.

It is possible, by careful management, to satisfy agricultural, hydroelectric, industrial, fishery and recreational demands, at least in part. But, if we are to practice conservation, which means the wise use of resources, we cannot permit any stream to be used for one purpose.

The editorial writer of *The Journal* complains that the Hydroelectric Commission would make the Deschutes a one-purpose stream by denying the PGE request. We contend that power development still is possible without major damage to the fishery resource. But, had the request been granted, the river WOULD have been limited to one purpose, that of power production and power production only and a valuable fishery resource would have been damaged beyond possible repair.

Scraps From the MENDING BASKET

Widnett Martin P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

Do you too remember the long stretch of road that leads from Bakerfield to the bottom of the Tehachapi range, and then rises through a rugged canyon in a 5-mile long grade called the Grapevine? That highway is blocked right now, the news tells us, with a 25-foot deep slide from Monday night's earthquake. Gorman was the place mentioned in the news but Gorman is at the intersection of the old Grapevine or corkscrew grade, and the Ridge Route that takes more than nine miles off the distance. Is the slide on the old tortuous grade or the newer speed-highway?

And are you, too, remembering that aqueduct that goes up and down for such a long distance across that countryside? It goes near Tehachapi the center of the seismic disturbance.

If you have ridden the Daylight you will recall the Loop; that is only ten miles from Tehachapi. There is a "shining thread of track which ascends 78 feet from the

South Portal (southbound) to describe a huge spiral 3,795 feet in circumference. The engine of an 80-car freight train will pass OVER the center of the tunnel just as the caboose emerges from it." Needless to say the Loop is unique in railroad engineering. Aren't you wondering, too, how the Loop fared Monday night?

Southern Californians plan on wild-flower days, advertised by the radio, and nowhere are the flowers lovelier than in the San Joaquin valley. Not until the news came over the radio and we began to talk about the area did I realize how well we know that valley and the adjoining ones. I was just thinking about the time the St. Francis Dam went out . . . in March 1928. . . the precise number of lives can only be guessed at. That deluge of water, part of L.A.'s water supply, took out part of the aqueduct, not to mention miles of highways, hundreds of homes, 10,000 acres of crops, just desolation.

Well, That's It, Chum! Grown Men, Too!



Fulton Lewis Jr.

WASHINGTON REPORT

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CHICAGO — Political block-busters will start falling on the Democratic national convention Tuesday.

The first is the battle over seating Texas and Mississippi delegations noted for their great distaste for President Truman.

The second, which may blow ten Southern states, with 117 electoral votes, clear back to Dixie, is the phony "loyalty pledge" dreamed up by Senator Estes Kefauver and Averell Harriman, two "hard-breathing" candidates about to get their fingers burned.

The third political missile is the FEPC plank in the platform, which should be ready for submission to the delegates either Tuesday or Wednesday after an anticipated fruitless "cooling off" period.

Milton L. Weissenmann, of Utah, a Harriman delegate, and Richardson Dilworth, of Philadelphia, a Kefauver delegate, have been designated to light the fuse for the Harriman-Kefauver loyalty explosion. They will ask the convention to change the rules with this motion:

"No delegation will be seated until the convention's credentials committee is assured that the party's nominees for president and vice president will be on the official Democratic ballot next November in states represented by those delegations."

Americans for Democratic Action, the radical haven for refugees from the New Deal, whose members behave here as though they owned the Democratic party, served as liaison between the Harriman and Kefauver forces in setting up the loyalty pledge strategy.

The move is aimed at those Southern states with state conventions in the deep freeze, waiting to see whom the convention nominates before they decide whether to thaw them out in August and endorse Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Seasoned politicians here label the Harriman-Kefauver strategy as insane. But the ADA roiled the two frustrated candidates on the idea and they are determined to try it. The decision to do so has not endeared the two candidates to Northern Democratic machine bosses, who see in the move little more than just another battle that should never be allowed to get started.

The Northern bosses, who have been preaching "harmony" and "compromise" to delegates ever since they arrived in Chicago, know that FEPC and the Texas-Mississippi delegate fights will create enough convention havoc. Frank McKinney, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, is opposed to the move and will be handling the gavel when the Harriman-Kefauver rule change is offered from the floor. If he is smart, he will acquire sudden deafness when the effort is made to place the amendment before the delegates.

The move, however, has put the machine bosses on the spot. They know that this convention will determine who controls the party—the North or South. And they have been working on a compromise candidate—probably Vice President Alben Barkley—in a desperate bid to keep the reins in their own hands.

The South has been a New and Fair Deal captive for 20 years. It wants to break free from the radicals in control of the party, and looks upon this convention as the ideal battleground for settling a lot of old scores. The selection of

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belief is a two-hour conference this morning between Stevenson and a Truman emissary—Interior Secretary Oscar Chapman.

Chapman proposed the meeting as it became CRYSTAL CLEAR that the Democratic party wheel-horses were in the convention driver's seat and were out to name the ticket."

The idea, of course, is to wind up the convention in a love feast, with everybody slapping everybody else on the back and saying: "It was wonderful, wasn't it? We forgot our differences, we all got together on a GRAND candidate and now we're going home just one big happy family."

I wonder.

Senator Kefauver doesn't seem too happy about the impending "draft" of Governor Stevenson. He tells a meeting of his supporters this morning that it is a SYNTHETIC draft. He added: "The people

your News-Review has not been delivered by 4:15 p.m., phone 2-2411 between 4:15 and 7 p.m.

Street Improvement Bids Asked By Court

Bids for grading and paving of two streets will be accepted by the County Court until Aug. 11.

The streets are Castle Street, in Bourne, Keeney and Porter subdivisions, and Pleasant Street in the subdivision plats of Fair Acres, Taft and Ridensour. Improvement is being done on petition of property owners.

being done by the "wheelhorses" of the Democratic party, there isn't much room for argument. But if it is intended to imply that the "draft" of Stevenson comes clear up from the grassroots, that it is being done, perhaps reluctantly, in response to a clear and unmistakable call from the rank and file of the people all over and in all walks of life, I'd say the word "synthetic" is accurately applied to it.

Personally, I never heard of Governor Stevenson until a few weeks ago when it began to be apparent that Ike was pretty likely to be the Republican nominee and if so some tall scratching would have to be done to dig up some Democrat who could be made to appear as the spontaneous choice of the people.

It was then, as I recall it, that the build-up for him as the draftee began. At any rate, the dictionary defines "synthetic" as "artificial; NOT genuine." I'd say that Mr. Kefauver has defined the Stevenson draft quite accurately.

At the moment of writing this, the big convention questions seems to be will the Southerners WALK OUT after all the honeying up to them of the past day or so?

Well, some 90 years ago they seceded from the Union. They MIGHT secede from the Democratic party if they get mad enough.

It is obvious that most of the Democratic maneuvering in Chicago has been designed to keep the Southerners from getting mad enough to walk out.

Compensation Asked For Accident Injuries

C. H. Bacon, has filed suit in an arm.

His complaint says the disability is the result of a jack hammer accident last November while working for California Oregon Power Co.

Watch 'em dive in!

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