

Congress Concerned Over Place Of Atomic Energy In Future Power Demands

By JOHN KAMPS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Some members of Congress who work closely with federal dam legislation are concerned about whether atom-

ic electric energy will make water power obsolete and, if so, when. Some questions have been raised on whether the government should invest millions of dollars in dam-

the production of hydroelectric power if there's a possibility they may be obsolete in the next 50 to 100 years.

Some congressmen believe it may be possible to produce and sell atomic power cheaper than water before the construction cost be repaid to the government through energy sales.

Others insist it will be impossible to generate atomic power at a cost low enough to compete with good hydro projects during their 50-year payout periods, and that the demand will be big enough to use both atomic and hydro power.

Arguments on both sides were advanced recently at a committee hearing on the upper Colorado River development bill.

Rep. Hosmer (R-Calif.) said "Not in 100 years, not in 50 years, but in a much shorter time nuclear-electric energy will be produced much cheaper than hydroelectric energy."

Hosmer said this prediction was based on these factors:
Figures from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory showing atomic power soon could be generated for 8.7 mills per kilowatt-hour.

A statement by Rep. Durham (D-NC), vice chairman of the House-Senate Atomic Energy Committee,

that atomic power within two years will be produced as cheaply as energy from oil, coal or water.

A speech by Floyd B. Odum, At-

Douglas-Coos County Area Debts Decrease

The Douglas-Coos County area was the only marketing district in the state to show a decrease in bank debts for May 1955 over May a year ago, according to figures from nine reporting banks in the area as tabulated by the bureau of business research at the University of Oregon.

The district was down only .1 per cent over a year ago, but 1.6 per cent over April.

Out of the twelve reporting districts, debts were down in nine over April, but were up over a year ago in all but Douglas and Coos Bay counties. State totals from the 12 reporting banks showed debts amounting to \$1,350,707, 985. This was an increase of 9.5 per cent over May 1954, but a drop of 2.2 per cent over a month ago.

The debts represent the dollar value of checks drawn against the accounts of individuals and business firms. They are considered good indicators of current business trends.

las Corp. president, saying that by 1975 all electricity in the nation will be generated by uranium based plants.

An Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) prediction that nuclear fuel would be economical enough to compete with other fuels in the foreseeable future.

A statement by Dr. J. R. Dunning, engineering dean at Columbia University, that "with only about 10 years of any appreciable searching for uranium, we have completely reversed our position held in the immediate postwar period when most so-called experts were saying we couldn't possibly have enough uranium to build an atomic power economy."

A survey predicting that by the year 2000 about 80 per cent of all new generating capacity installed in this country will be atom-pow.

On the other side, Sen. Bennett (R-Utah) testified it would be "imprudent and most unwise to summarily halt" the construction of dams on grounds their power might become obsolete at some indefinite time in the future.

"Neither the public power users, municipalities or rural electric co-operatives, nor the private power companies, seem to share this fear," he said. "They are all anx-

ious to contract for any available power from the power dams. Moreover, the Atomic Energy Commission is the largest single consumer of hydroelectric power in the United States."

Bennett said private power companies in the West are "continuing unabated" their hydro and steam power expansion programs.

Pastor Says He Sees Too Much Of Young Brides

BURLEY, England (AP)—The Rev. Leslie Aitken complained that he sees far too much of some of the girls who get married in his church.

The trouble, the 37-year-old Anglican pastor explained in a letter to his parishioners, is the low cut of many bridal gowns. Many of them are backless and some are practically frontless too.

"Really," the clergyman wrote, "it's a miracle how they stay up. To the congregation behind it must look as though some brides have nothing on above the waist. During the ceremony the girls stand two steps below me. . . . It's all terribly embarrassing."

The Rev. Mr. Aitken suggested that if a bride must wear a revealing dress, she should cover up with a shawl for the ceremony. The pastor himself has been married for 17 years.

State Welfare Problem Expected To Continue

PORTLAND (AP)—The State Welfare Commission said here that a problems caused by rising costs and increases in the number of welfare cases will continue through the next biennium despite increased funds.

The commission, holding its final meeting of this fiscal period, reported its budget for the next two years will be \$99,076,137.

In the two year period which ends June 30, the total was \$95,212,570.



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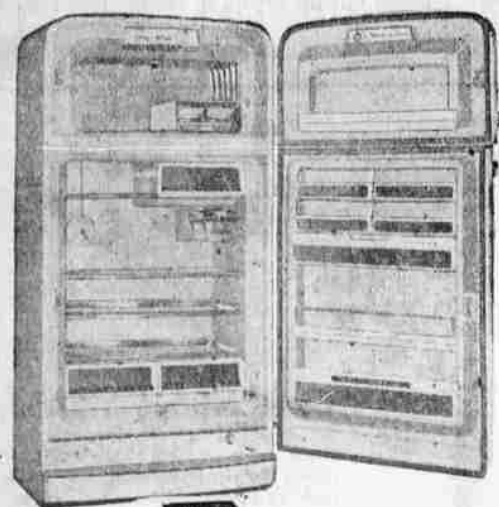
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