

Columbia Valley Administration

An Expanding Economy?...

By C. GIRARD DAVIDSON

No one in the Pacific Northwest is opposed to more electric power, irrigation, better flood control. Everyone is conscious of the urgency for getting these things quickly. We haven't forgotten about last winter's power shortage and the certainty that it will return again this winter and for several winters to come. We haven't forgotten either about last summer's Columbia River flood and the possibility of its returning again this year.

It is also generally understood in the Pacific Northwest that the Federal Government is the only fiscal agency big enough to get these jobs done.

The question being debated throughout the region now is how shall the Federal Government carry out these jobs.

At the moment there are over 20 Federal agencies concerned with various phases of resource development in the region. Probably the largest of these are the three agencies who share responsibility for building dams and transmitting power. Under such a system of divided authority, it is not surprising that the Federal Government's dam-building program is far behind schedule. Grand Coulee dam is one year behind in installation of generators,

Hungry Horse is three years behind, McNary is two years behind, Chief Joseph is four years behind, Detroit is three years behind, Ice Harbor is four years behind. "At the rate we are going now," a Congressman has commented, "it will be 1958-9 years—before we catch up with the Northwest power shortage."

Meantime, the Federal Government, with similar responsibilities in the Tennessee Valley, has almost completed its job there. The Tennessee Valley is now protected against floods. Practically 100 per cent of the power potential of the river has been realized.

The reason for this difference is obvious. The Federal Government had a better mechanism for getting the job done in the Tennessee than it now has in the Columbia.

For this reason, President Truman has recommended "that the Congress enact legislation to provide a means for welding together the many Federal activities concerned with the region's resources into a balanced, continuously program."

The President's recommendations have been embodied in bills to create a Columbia Valley Administration which have been introduced in both the House and Senate by members of the Northwest delegation and others.

The CVA bills, if enacted, would accomplish two major objectives contributing to speeding up the region's development. One, it would provide for a comprehensive plan covering all Federal resources activities in the region and it would provide a single agency with responsibility to the people for coordinated and decisive action. Two, it would transfer the administration of this great Federal program from Washington, D. C., to a headquarters in the heart of the region, where it will be more responsive to the needs and desires of the people affected by the work done, and where local participation in the planning and the operation of the job will be encouraged.

In a real sense, then, the CVA proposal is a reorganization measure along the lines of the Hoover Commission Reports. It gives the Federal Government a new and more effective instrument for carrying out its responsibilities. It does not give the Federal Government any new authority or function beyond that which is now exercised by the existing agencies. Under the CVA, as now, the President and Congress would retain the right of approval before any new projects or activities could be initiated by the Columbia Valley Administration.

The proposed CVA bill would not change the existing policies of the Federal Government as carried out by existing agencies. It would not change the existing reclamation policies as now carried out by existing agencies. It would not change the construction of projects by private contractors as now carried out by existing agencies. While it would absorb the Pacific Northwest operations of the Bureau of Reclamation and of the civil works functions of the Corps of

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Editor's Note

Hearings are currently being held before Congress on the proposed Columbia Valley administration.

The issue is one of tremendous importance to the people of the Pacific Northwest with an unemployment ratio twice the national average, shortage of electricity, and the rapid population increases. The issues and problems presented deserve careful consideration.

Both Mr. Davidson and Mr. Ellsworth are eminently qualified to write upon this controversial subject. Both are residents of Oregon and are well known public leaders. Both of these articles have been written exclusively for the Emerald.

The cuts of Davidson and Ellsworth were furnished by the Register-Guard, the cut of Grand Coulee dam was furnished by the Bonneville Power administration.

Arrangements for the page were made by Walter Dodd, Emerald feature editor.

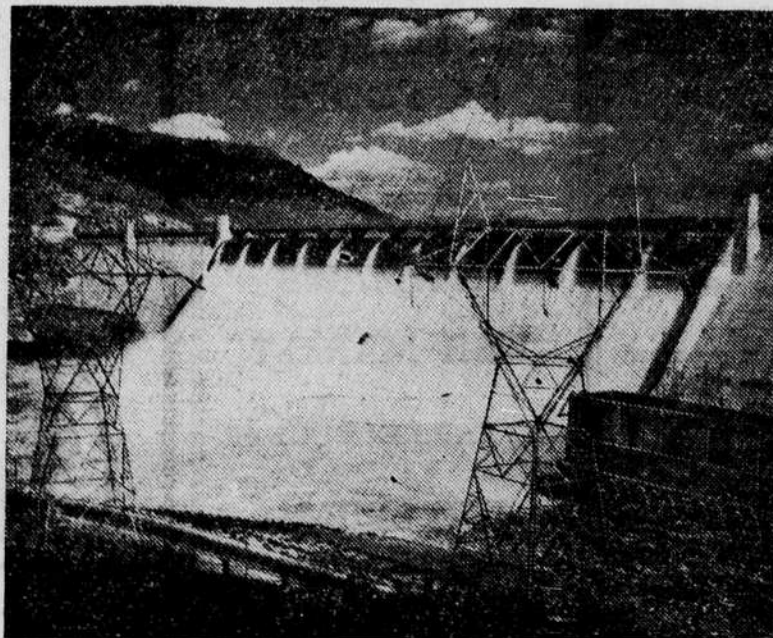
Ellsworth

Harris Ellsworth is a Republican member of congress from this the fourth Oregon congressional district. Ellsworth graduated from the University, class of 1922. He is a former editor of the Roseburg News Review, and past president of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers' association. Ellsworth served in the state senate, representing Douglas county in 1941, and was first elected to Congress in 1942. He was reelected in 1944, 1946, and 1948.

Davidson

C. Girard (Jebbie) Davidson is assistant secretary of the interior. He makes his home in Portland. He is a graduate of Tulane and Yale law schools. Davidson was attorney for the TVA from 1934-37, was general counsel for the Bonneville Power administration 1943-46, and in 1946 was named assistant secretary of the interior department. Davidson is a leader in the fight for the adoption of the Columbia Valley administration.

Grand Coulee Dam



"One Year Behind..."

... Rigid Central Control?

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH

The proposal to turn the sovereign states of the Pacific Northwest into a rigidly controlled unit, first called "Columbia Valley Authority" but for the psychological purposes now referred to as a "Columbia Valley Administration," has been before Congress in one form or another for many years. In 1945 the CVA bill was introduced in substantially the same form as the present bills. The plan did not originate in Congress but was the dream-child of a group of TVA "graduates" most of whom work in the U. S. Department of Interior. Until this year when the CVA promoters persuaded the President to make it a part of his program, CVA has not been taken seriously by Congress. Having been given the presidential nod, however, the CVA pressure crowd has started the propaganda mills grinding and there is considerable possibility that the bill might be passed.



The proponents have apparently not seriously attempted to make a logical showing of need for the enactment of CVA legislation. Rather they rely upon selling the uninformed upon the idea—and certainly most people have but scanty information on such a technical subject—by claiming certain benefits to be obtained only under a CVA. These are things most people want to see accomplished, hence it is reasonable to guess that these bogus claims will win much popular support for a CVA unless they are refuted.

Stop these disastrous floods, say the CVA people. The U. S. Army Engineer Corps is the only agency or group of men in the whole world able to qualify as expert in the field of flood control. They have just completed, in co-operation with all of the other Federal agencies, a complete flood control plan and report on the Columbia and its tributaries. A CVA would not do that and should not attempt to do it.

Pass the CVA bill and end out power shortage! This claim actually makes no sense. Before the war and after the first Grand Coulee generators were in service there was a surplus of power. When McNary Dam, on which \$40,000,000 will be spent during the coming 12 months, is completed and Foster Creek or Chief Joseph dam is in service we may again have more power than is needed. A CVA could not speed up this construction. Meanwhile Columbia area farms are 90% more electrified than TVA farms and the rate for Columbia power is considerably less than the power rate in the TVA.

Crack down the greedy "Power Trust", say the CVA propagandists. That was done years ago. Federal power in the Columbia area is an accomplished fact. There is no Public Power vs. Private Power fight involved in the CVA controversy.

The real heart of the argument for a CVA is the magic but vague statement that "We must co-ordinate the numerous federal activities in the area." It is contended that lack of coordination is holding back the proper development of the Columbia Valley. This argument is rather completely knocked out by the facts. The best factual evidence on the point is the recently published comprehensive "308 Report", representing the combined efforts

of some 19 federal agencies. This planning job provides for a multi-billion dollar development of all phases of river improvement in the Columbia area including flood control, reclamation, navigation and power production. It is now before Congress.

As for the question of development—let me quote one paragraph from President Truman's speech made when he sent the CVA bill to Congress:

"The Pacific Northwest has been developing very rapidly in recent years. The population has jumped 37% since 1940. The tonnage of agricultural production (not including livestock and livestock products) has risen about 25% in Washington, Oregon and Idaho between 1940 and 1947. Total income payments have increased 200% since before the war in those three states, as compared with 150% for the country as a whole. The per capita income is the highest in the nation."

I am opposed to the CVA partly because it is

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