

Gov. favors conservation

NW energy crisis expected

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Gov. Bob Straub volunteered Thursday to lead a regional planning and conservation effort aimed at staying off an energy crisis in the Northwest.

"The cheapest source of new power for the Pacific Northwest still is conservation," he said at a meeting with officials of the Bonneville Power Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The meeting was to update Straub on the energy and water outlook as the region goes through one of its driest winters ever.

Water and power experts say the snowpack of 15 to 30 per cent of normal, less in some areas, is inadequate to fill the reservoirs behind the hydroelectric dams. Straub said he will avoid calling unnecessarily for heroic measures. "But we should have a solid awareness of what the facts are," he said.

BPA Administrator Don Hodel told Straub new river forecasts were for a Columbia River runoff at The Dalles of 64 million feet, among the lowest ever. If the 90-day outlook for more dry weather holds true, he said, a new record could be set. Average runoff is about 107 million acre feet. The runoff in 1973, when former Gov. Tom McCall ordered display lights turned out to save energy, was about 70 million acre feet.

If exceptionally wet weather starts immediately and lasts through June, Hodel said, there might be no problem. But he said that is not likely.

He said more will be known after early March when the snowpack readings are in from February.

By early summer, he said, the BPA should have a good idea of what the shortage situation will be next winter.

While there is little shortage threat for this winter, Straub said he favors starting reduced consumption now to avoid coming up against a sudden crisis later. "It will take time for people to ingrain it into their living habits," he said, urging Northwesterners to "... be calm, but be prepared."

Maj. Gen. Weseley Peel of the Army Corps of Engineers said the major reservoirs on the Willamette

River already are at record low levels.

If normal rainfall started now he said, the reservoirs would fill to about 70 per cent capacity. If the weather remains dry for another 90 days as predicted, he said, that could fall to from 10-20 per cent.

Straub said he plans to visit some of the reservoirs on Monday.

Hodel told Straub Canada has ruled out helping with water to generate power for emergency industrial use, and said prospects for importing energy into the Pacific Northwest from other regions are generally poor.

He said if conservation efforts are not made, and dry weather continues, household rationing could take place by March of 1978.

Straub said if he had a choice of allocating water to agriculture or industry, he would favor agriculture.

Court blocks info release

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three large insurance companies are asking the Supreme Court to block an attempt by the National Organization for Women (NOW) to obtain government documents that outline hiring and job-classification practices of the three firms.

The requests eventually could

lead to a major test of what information may be released under the Freedom of Information Act, passed by Congress to combat secrecy in government.

The insurance firms, Prudential, Metropolitan Life and John Hancock, won a temporary victory Thursday when Chief Justice Warren Burger ruled that the documents may remain confidential until he weighs the legal arguments. Burger asked the Justice Department for its views about the controversy.

In 1975, the Washington chapter of NOW, a women's rights group, sought release of numerous documents submitted to the government by the three firms dealing with employment opportunities for minorities and women.

After the companies objected to such a release, federal courts ruled that many of the documents sought by the women's rights group should be released, especially those reports filed in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. All private companies with more than 100 employees are required under the 1964 law to file such reports.

Attorney Margaret Kohn, who represents the women's group, said Thursday that NOW has never charged the three insurance firms with sex discrimination but had received complaints from some members.

In opposing any further delay in release of the records, NOW lawyers told Burger, "At stake is whether an organization seeking to eliminate employment discrimination should continue to be barred from access to equal employment data..."

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Pope says no women priests

VATICAN CITY — The Roman Catholic Church said Thursday it will not ordain women as priests because Christ "was and remains a man" and his apostles, all men, chose other men as their successors.

A declaration issued on orders of Pope Paul VI by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith went directly against the recommendation of another Vatican body and the growing practice among Protestant Christian denominations of ordaining women.

Labor strikes spread in Spain

MADRID, Spain — Tens of thousands of mourners jammed downtown Madrid for the funeral Wednesday of three Communist lawyers slain by rightists. Labor strikes spread across Spain in protest of a campaign of violence by diehard Francoists.

The massive demonstrations against political violence came as the government of Premier Adolfo Suarez worked to cool unrest threatening to undermine its plans for a restoration of democratic rule.

Prisoner release serious step

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Cyrus Vance says the Carter administration would regard Cuba's release of political prisoners as an indication Cuba is seriously interested in restoring relations with the United States, according to testimony released Thursday.

Vance offered this viewpoint in response to written questions put to him Jan. 11 by Sen. Clifford Case, R-N.J. Case is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which questioned Vance on his nomination to succeed Henry Kissinger as secretary of state.

Gas shortage forces crisis

Ohio Gov. James Rhodes declared an energy crisis Thursday as that state, along with several other Eastern and Midwestern states, faced a serious shortage of natural gas.

All schools served by Ohio's four utilities will be closed Friday and as many as 250,000 workers may be off their jobs as Ohio attempts to shift a limited supply of natural gas from factory to home use, state officials said.

African efforts backed

LONDON (AP) — Vice Pres. Walter Mondale and British Prime Minister James Callaghan talked Thursday about international economic problems and southern Africa and then announced that Callaghan, at Pres. Carter's invitation, would visit the United States in March.

In a brief, joint news conference after a private meeting that lasted more than an hour, Mondale told Callaghan the United States government was standing fully behind British efforts at mediating the transfer of power to the black majority in Rhodesia.

"My government is exceedingly grateful to the prime minister and the leadership being provided in that very, very difficult situation," Mondale said at the start of the news conference.

Callaghan, whose three-day U.S. visit will begin March 3, said the most important subject he would discuss with Carter involved the condition of the international economy in the year 1978.

The overnight stop in London is part of Mondale's 10-day world

tour in which he is getting acquainted with leaders of Western Europe and Japan and talking primarily about economic problems of the developed nations and how they can affect the underdeveloped nations.

Leaders attack power report

LONDON (AP) — A government report recommended Wednesday that workers be given as much power as owners in running Britain's large companies. The proposal met with immediate condemnation from industrialists and a mixed reaction from labor leaders.

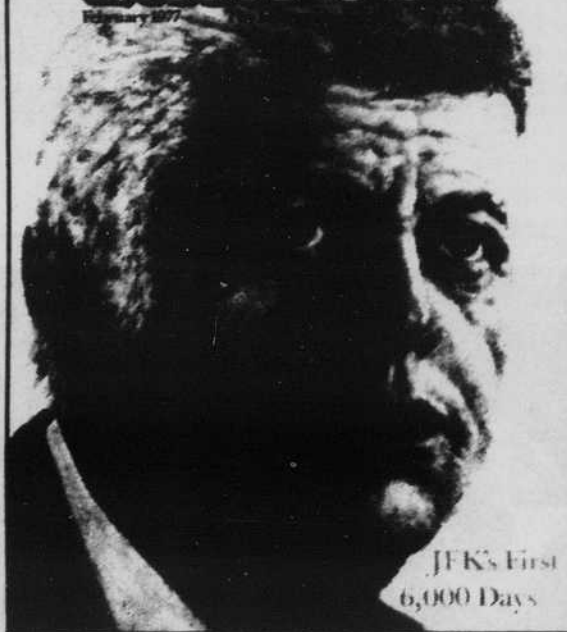
The report by the government-appointed Committee on Industrial Democracy urged that as many worker-directors as shareholder representatives be put on the boards of large companies. A third, smaller group of directors would be selected jointly by labor and management.

In its February issue, *National Lampoon* sets out to answer a question that has been on everyone's mind since November 22, 1963...

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APRIL 15 DEADLINE

27 Italian Medical and Veterinary Schools Accept American Students

Medical and veterinary school aspirants who are thinking of applying to Italian medical schools, and their families, must act immediately. New Italian government regulations require that preinscription applications be filed with Italian Consulates before April 15, for consideration for medical and veterinary school admission in 1977.

27 distinguished Italian medical schools accept Americans. Several hundred Americans now are studying at Italian medical and veterinary schools. Medical, dental and veterinary school aspirants who need assistance in language and cultural orientation and preparation before, during and after medical school to enable the practice of medicine in the U.S., should contact the Institute of International Medical Education. The Institute has helped more Americans enter European medical and veterinary schools than any other organization. Advanced placement for holders of science post-graduate degrees.

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