



NORTHWEST POWER PLANNING COUNCIL

SAVING SALMON FROM PAGE 1

(Patricia Shannon owns and manages the Pacific Rim Gallery.)

RICK GREGORY: "It's like flogging a dead fish. I've sort of lost interest. I'm against shipbreaking. Too much pollution. Lead in the paint, tons of it. Asbestos. PBCs. I'm also concerned about where the sludge and tailings of dredging up to Portland would go and whether they will avoid damaging fishing and crabbing."

"Before we even consider shipbreaking we should take core samples, and after the shipbreakers come in — if they do."

(Rick Gregory works for Astoria Frozen Foods and vacations in South America.)

TOM CARMICHAEL: "Obviously salmon are endangered. Tom Sandos, President of the CRPA (Columbia River Packers Association) in the 1940s went before the Portland City Club and told them at the time they would ruin the salmon run if they built dams on the Columbia. So they went ahead and built the dams on the Columbia/Snake system. The original dams didn't include fish ladders. The dams in effect ruin the salmon runs in Washington, Oregon and Idaho."

"These dams were built for flood control and power. Eastern Oregon and eastern Washington were dryland farming areas that suddenly became irrigated farming because of the dams."

"If you think of the salmon, all right take down the dams, but if you think about agricultural commodities coming down the river and petroleum going up, taking down dams will have a large impact on those industries. Flood control — if the dams were taken out, I don't think anyone knows what the impact will be. Dredging the river is a no-brainer, but the dams are an

honest controversy. There are two sides to this issue. That's why it is so controversial."

"If the people of the United States would wake up and realize nuclear power is the wave of the future, they will do what's been done in Europe with safe and productive nuclear power plants. Nukes will be able to generate power the dams currently produce. With nuclear power we wouldn't need the dams for electricity."

"The dredging to Portland is probably the most ridiculous idea I've heard. If you look at shipping from West Coast ports — comparing L.A., Oakland, San Francisco, Tacoma — compared to what's shipped out of the Port of Portland, it's a ridiculous request for taxpayers to pay for Portland's small volume of total business on the West Coast. Plus the fact the expenditure of taxpayer dollars will continue year after year for the extent of our lives and beyond."

"The Port of Astoria will never be a port of any significance. It should be sold to a developer and the proceeds of

bonds should be taken off tax rolls. The Port could be used for condominiums or anything else imaginative to enhance tourism and views of the river."

"I think the Port of Astoria should be dissolved. The Port will never develop because it has no back-up lands or properties to warehouse the amount of shipping necessary for it to be a major port. I've been here 29 years and every year the Port has forecast better days ahead. It's been doing that for 75 years — and it's not going to get better. The decision has already been made by state and industry to not export logs, instead sell them domestically. We have no federal timber in Clatsop County. Willamette has about 175,000 acres; State Forestry has about 150,000 acres. The timber industry is under great stress here because of federal regulations though the feds don't own a stick of timber in the county."

"The Port Commissioners are in 'LaLaLand.' They think this port will be a major influence on the West Coast, but it's not to be."

"I think the community should reject the shipbreaking facility proposal out of hand. Personally, I think the guy handling things for the company is a crook."

"However, if they can do this proposal in a safe nonpolluting way, I see nothing wrong with it."

"But they can't break up ships in the water. They will have to use something like a railroad system to haul the ships out of the water and bust them up. If they can't do it in a safe environmental way it shouldn't be done."

"Once they bust up ships, they're out business. That area they want for shipbreaking should be a shipyard. Once the ships are busted up the company's out of business. But with a shipyard building and repairing ships we would have an ongoing business and jobs forever."

(Tom Carmichael is owner/operator of 'Carmichael Oil' and a former Clatsop County Commissioner.)

BRIGIDO EDUARDO and **TERRY ERICKSON** were interviewed together:

TERRY: "I think either dredging or shipbreaking has serious possibilities of polluting salmon. Whether they break resolutions, I don't know. I think the best way to help salmon is work on habitat — create log jams in streams and rivers. The government cleared out streambeds and rivers and now realizes that salmon like pools and logs in the river."

BRIGIDO: "Dredging the river will disturb the spawning of the salmon. For one thing, they'll lose their sense of smell from all the crap pulled off the bottom of the river."

TERRY: "I think instead of dredging to keep Portland in business we should think of Astoria's prospects of being a major port."

BRIGIDO: "It's nice to have a big industry like this shipbreaking company want to come here, but these guys pollute. In the long run costs will go up for cleaning up the mess they will make, and most of the money the company makes will go out of town. And I think they will bring their own people in to work which will put pressure on local labor, as well as neighborhoods and schools."

TERRY: "Shipbreaking is recycling and it has to be done somewhere. It will be a mess but we must force them to strictly adhere to environmental laws. We should see if there are any systems of shipbreaking that would be clean — maybe in Finland or Sweden. Overall, I don't want to see any shipbreaking in this river, but I think we should check out the options."

BRIGIDO: "The way things are happening, and they're happening fast, Astoria's not going to be a small town any more."

(Terry Erickson lives in Astoria and wishes to put the complete works of Thomas Paine on the world wide web. Brigido Eduardo is from Venezuela, has lived in Astoria since 1986, and plays with the local musical group, *Los Comatose*.)

URIAH HULSEY: "Why dredge when we have a perfectly good port right here in Astoria?"

"Shipbreaking stinks. It's bad for the environment. The company won't hire any workers. The job's like breaking down boxcars outside Pittsburg (PA). If you've been there you'd know. They cut boxcars like they do ships. There's more people injured breaking down boxcars than any other job in the country. And breaking down ships is more dangerous than breaking down boxcars."

"Salmon are like tomatoes. Enjoy the ones off the vine if you can get them. That's the way it is with wild salmon, when

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CLINTON

Dear Mr. President:

On this day in 1940 (April 9), the Nazis invaded Norway. They started with bombing of military targets and ended up with terror bombing of cities because the Norwegians did not easily give up.

Is the situation so much different in the Balkans? A military strong country attacking a small country that cannot defend itself against such an overwhelming force.

You say it is of vital interest to the West. Perhaps you are forgetting that problems and animosities have been around since time began, and it is not our job to police centuries old conflicts in the far corners of the world. My thinking may be old fashioned, but I thought our armed forces were supposed to defend America, and that is not what we are doing in Kosovo.

For someone who did his best to avoid any involvement in the Vietnam War, you seem to have no problems sending other people to war. Could it be a case of *Wag the Dog* or would you rather be remembered as the great warrior instead of the great lover? You are expending American resources, our tax dollars, goodwill and probably soon American lives. Worse yet, the situation you profess to remedy may turn into a quagmire of worldwide consequence. For NATO to bomb the Serbs, our ally in World War II, makes as much sense as to bomb Madrid because the Basques want to have their own country.

A famous statesman once said that war was too important to be left to the generals. In that case your "strategic thinking" may be good enough to charm the pants off young ladies, but those of us who have been around for awhile know it is all for the birds.

~K. AURSLAND

K. Aursland was born in Norway and spent part of his childhood under Nazi occupation. He is a Columbia River Bar Pilot.



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