



By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

Nearly two months have elapsed since the president suddenly announced he was having a new Columbia Valley Authority bill drawn and would shortly send it to congress. Meanwhile, I have been reviewing my rather voluminous file on the subject of Valley Authority legislation and have been examining everything I can lay my hands on pertaining to this subject, searching principally for one important set of facts which are strangely missing. I have been trying to find specific and compelling reasons why authority legislation, whether that proposed by members of congress from the state of Washington, or even the forthcoming proposal from the president's office, is necessary. In other words, it seems just common sense to me to accurately diagnose an illness before prescribing a "cure."

It is normal practice in any legislative body to first establish the fact that a given piece of legislation is needed, and then to tailor such legislation to meet the need. Apparently this logical approach to the question of Columbia Valley Authority legislation has been completely ignored.

The house appropriations bill, which carries appropriations for projects constructed by the army engineers, contains the same figures for flood control and rivers and harbors projects in the fourth district of Oregon as those in the president's budget. These items are as follows:

Flood Control: Cottage Grove reservoir, \$140,000; Fern Ridge Reservoir, \$208,000; Dorena dam, \$2,924,000; Meridian dam, \$11,000,000; Detroit reservoir, \$11,300,000; Bank protection, \$500,000. Rivers and Harbors: Coos Bay Harbor, \$1,000,000.

It should be noted that appropriations for the Willamette valley flood control project for the coming fiscal year total, \$26,222,700. Appropriations for this project will continue to be large during the next three or four years as the projects reach the peak of their construction period. Up to now, work on both the large Meridian dam in the Willamette and Detroit dam has been of preliminary nature. During the coming year, construction of the dams themselves will get under way on full-scale basis.

Anticipating a decline in material and construction costs during the next year, the house appropriations committee reduced the total amounts appropriated for construction by 15%. It did not, however, make this reduction on any specific item or items. In explaining this 15% reduction, the committee said in its report:

"In the event construction costs do not decline to the extent necessary to produce the rate of construction on each project contemplated by the budget esti-

mates at 15% less than the amount of money proposed in such estimates then it will be necessary, and expected the army the army submit through the bureau of the budget deficiency estimates for such amounts as may be necessary to complete the program contemplated in the estimates of the bureau of the budget for the fiscal year 1950 and recommended by the committee."

In other words, the amounts listed above will actually be expended on the projects named, but whether or not the actual construction accomplished during the year is less than anticipated will depend upon the trend of construction costs.

As I have pointed out before, the passage of an appropriation bill by the house represents only the first step in the legislative procedure on an appropriation bill. It is not likely that, when the bill is enacted by both houses, any of the items listed here will be reduced. On the other hand, I was greatly disappointed that the appropriation for Coos Bay harbor improvement could not have been increased above the budget item so as to complete the job this year. I am hopeful that, by the time the bill is completed, the item for Coos Bay will be increased.

The house was in a state of confusion during the several days while the Rankin bill was under consideration. As frequently happens when normal legislative procedure is not followed and an attempt is made to write an important bill on the floor of the house, a hodge-podge bill riddled by amendments resulted. For example, the bill was finally sent back to committee after three days of consideration on the floor, it contained an amendment which provided that World War 1 veterans, over 65 years of age, would receive pensions averaging between \$30 and \$40 monthly, whereas World War 2 veterans, attaining that age, might receive as would have been the case of one member of congress, with whom I talked, as much as \$306 per month. Under the circumstances, I naturally voted to return the bill to committee for further and better consideration.

The history of this pension bill was unfortunate. As I got the story from members of the house committee on veteran affairs, Chairman John Rankin was angry at the house majority leadership because of the committee assignment. Knowing that to force a pension bill onto the floor of the house at this time would be politically embarrassing to the administration, he hurried the bill through his committee with very limited hearings and with brief consideration in an executive meeting of his committee. A number of members of the committee refused to take part in the committee's final executive session because of their objection to the haste with which the bill was being forced on to the floor.

It is regrettable that a bill as important as this one should have had such bad treatment, but in my opinion, the house was wise in sending the bill back to the committee on veterans affairs. I

am sure this committee will not abandon consideration of the pension proposal and will ultimately bring out another bill.

Co. Service Office Reports To You:

BY C. E. SEGER
Gold Beach, Ore.

Winners of army decorations in World War 2 may now obtain diploma-type certificates from the department of army attesting to the awards, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs reported this week.

The army adjutant general's office informed the state veterans' agency that certificates are available for issue to recipients of the following decorations: The Congressional Medal of Honor, distinguished service medal, purple heart, commendation ribbon, distinguished service cross, silver star, legion of merit, distinguished flying cross, soldier's medal, bronze star and air medal.

Applications from honorably discharged veterans or from the next of kin in posthumous cases should be addressed to: Demobilized Personnel Records Branch, Dept. of Army, 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo.

Those now on active duty or in reserve status should address requests direct to Department of Army, Adjutant General's office, Washington, 25, D. C. No application forms are used.

Applicants must apply in writing, showing serial number, date and headquarters of the general orders granting the decoration and if possible, they should include copies of the general order and complete citation.

No provision for issuing certificates for navy decorations has been made, according to a recent letter from the navy department on this question. While "under consideration" by the navy department, "it is doubtful if certificates are authorized that their issuance will be retroactive," the county service officer was informed.

To the soldiers entitled to any of the foregoing awards, your county service officer urges that you immediately apply for same, while machinery for issuing these certificates is in operation.

Girl Scouts Collect \$257.51 Of County Red Cross Donation

According to a report released by the Girl Scout Committee, the senior group of Girl Scouts had collected \$257.51 in funds over the area and had turned in the money with everything checking to the penny.

Under direction of Mrs. Ira Brown, the girls canvassed the Brookings area, and outlying district, including Pedroili drive to the Winchuck river.

The county quota for the Red Cross drive is \$600. Mrs. Reekman is chairman of the Harbor district, and R. G. Sabin is county chairman of the drive.

Realty Transfers

M. M. Jones of Portland will come to Brookings to open a jewelry store and wat-repairing business in the Templar hotel building. With many years experience he was impressed by the community during a recent short stay here. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jones are enthusiastic fishermen.

Real Estate transfers handled through the C. O. Leonard Real Estate agency the past week are:

Purchase of the C. H. Jenkins house by Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Jones.

Purchase of several acres from Herbert Payne by Mr and Mrs. H. C. Decker. plan to build a new home.

Purchase of five acres of land from Mr. and Mrs. Mosier by Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Drake of Brookings, Ore.

Permits Needed, Say State Forester

All logging or similar operations within the forest areas of the State of Oregon where any type of power-driven equipment is used or where forest products are harvested are required to obtain a logging or sawmill permit according to N. R. Boyd, forest inspector, of Gold Beach.

Mr. Boyd, who was in this vicinity late last week, states that apparently many operators are delinquent in this respect and calls attention to the fact that

closure of the operation for non-compliance, as well as a fine, may result from failure to obtain a permit.

Applications for such permits may be obtained from Mr. Boyd, from the fire patrol office, or by writing to the state forester at Salem.

These permits issued by the state forester are valid for only the year in which issued and for the specific area indicated to be logged in the permit.

Every Tuesday noon, Rotary club, at Vincent's Restaurant. All visiting Rotarians are welcome.



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