



By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

All is quiet on our side of the Capitol as this is written. Many members of the house have gone home for the week or are on short vacation trips. I had intended getting in a round of golf or two and perhaps a very little gardening at home, but the recess shows signs of ending before I get completely caught up with office work. The last two weeks before the recess were busy weeks. House sessions began at 11 o'clock and sometimes at 10, and adjourned late each day. Committees met also. It was next to impossible to get anything much done in the office.

Recently I was talking with a lady visitor from the west who had just spent several hours in the visitors galleries of House and Senate. She was quite disturbed by the fact that so few members were on the floor and that, as she said, those who were there were not listening to the member speaking. I have often thought that visitors watching the house in session must be quite disappointed—if not disillusioned. Only a few times each week is the house chamber actually filled with members. When minor routine business is being transacted or when a set period of general debate is being conducted on a bill, there is no real necessity for a member to be on the floor. As a matter of fact, the pressure of committee and office work is so heavy on all members that for them to be on the floor at such times would be an unproductive use of time. On the other hand, when an important bill is being read for amendment, most members stay in the chamber until the final roll call. Gallery visitors at such times are not disappointed. There is usually plenty of action.

Lately I have spent several hours reading and carefully studying the new Columbia Valley

Authority bill sent to Congress by the president accompanied by a message urging its passage.

When the subject was mentioned earlier this year, I took out my rather voluminous CVA file, obtained some additional material, and made a careful review on the whole subject. I was actually surprised, after reading most everything said and written on CVA, to find so pitifully little specific evidence showing the immediate need for such an all-powerful authority has been put forth by those who desire the passage of this legislation. If a case could be made for such a bill, the president should have made it in his special message. A careful reading of his very honest statement regarding the present development program of the Columbia River area rather tends to prove that it is proceeding at splendid rate. Instead of proving that a CVA must be established in order to develop the Columbia properly, the text of the president's message causes me to have even more serious doubts as to the need for any such legislation.

The CVA bill itself (identified as H. R. 4286 or H. R. 4287 since Representatives Mitchell and Jackson of Washington introduced identical bills) would place almost unlimited power in the hands of a board of three men appointed by the president. The passage of this bill would empower the board to do almost anything in the region from regulating hunting and fishing to building industrial "practical demonstration plants," powder dams, steam plants, transmission lines and a few other facilities. Local people would not have the slightest power over, or effective voice in, the operations of this all-powerful board of three.

The Columbia region as defined in the bill includes all of the 4th congressional district. I shall be glad to send a copy of the bill to anyone requesting one. I hope careful study will be given the bill by the people concerned because we are all going to be seriously affected by it if it should become a law.

Notice Of School Election upon question of increasing tax levy over amount limited by Section 11, Article XI, State Constitution.

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held in School District No. 17, Curry County,

State of Oregon, at School house, at 8:00 p. m. Monday, May 23, in said district, for the purpose of submitting to the legal voters of said district the question of increasing the tax levy for the year 1949 over the amount limited by Section 11, Article XI, of the Constitution of Oregon.

The reason for increasing such levy are: For increased cost of operation, due to the recent failure of the Rural School Board to equalize necessary items of

District No. 17 budget.

The amount of tax, in excess of the 6% limitation, proposed to be levied for said year is \$15,731.70.

Dated this 27th day of April, 1949. DORA E. BEAULIEU, Gladys I. Kindel Dist. Clerk Chairman of the board.

Mrs. Ernest Fritz and son, Leonard, are visiting friends and relatives in Colorado. Mrs. Fritz plans to return the first of June.

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