LETTER EXPLAINS RED-TAPE BEFORE ROGUE RIVER PROJECT WILL COME UP FOR STUDY BEFORE CONGRESS

LETTER TELLS OF HANDS A REPORT MUST CLEAR BEFORE ANY DEFINITE CAN AND WILL BE TAKEN ON BILL

From Harris Ellsworth, representative of the Fourth District, comes this letter, received by him, explaining action, or the lask of action on the Rogue River basin matter. The letter, self-explanatory, will give people of Curry county an insight upon the matter, as it now stands in the national capital:

United States
Department of the Interior
Washington, Feb. 16, 1950

Dear Mr. Ellsworth:

In answer to your request, I will outline in this letter the status of the Department's plans for the Rogue R Basin in Oregon, as well as the anticipated schedule for further action on these plans.

As you know, the department has charged its Pacific Northwest Field committee at Portland with the task of seeking a unified and co-ordinated departmental plan for the Rogue River Basin, giving due consideration to all the pertinent aspects, including irrigation, fisheries, the power development, recreation, flood control, and land management. This committe has had a task force working on the problem for some time and the task force report is scheduled to be presented to the committee at its next meeting in Portland on Feb. 6. The committee has promised to transmit its report and recommendations to the Department in Washington within a few days after the Feb. 6. meeting.

Inasmuch as we do not know now what will be in the committee report or recommendations, it is hard to anticipate how long it will take us to review the matter here in the department. I can assure you, however, that the review will proceed as speedily as possible and should be completed within a matter of a few weeks after we receive the committee's submission.

It is likely that whatever possition the department takes after review will require some alterations in the basin report of the bureau of reclamation, and the time necessary to make these changes will depend upon how extensive they might be. After these changes are made, however, the report will then come to the Commissioner of Reclamation, who will send it on to the secretary for appropval before it is transmitted to the different states and interested federal agencies for review. The states and federal agencies have a 90-day maximum period in which to send in their comments and recommendations. After these comments have been coordinated with the report, the Commissioner of Reclamation sends it to the secretary for his approval and transmittal to the president, through the bureau of the budget, to ascertain whether it is in accord with his program. Naturally review by the bureau of the budget take a reasonable amount of time.

If the report is found to be in accord with the program of the president, it is transmitted to congress.

It should be noted that the report which will go through the process described above is an over-all information report on the Rogue River basin. It would be sent to congress for the information of the congress and it is not anticipated that it will request authorization of any projects. You may recall that such an information report was submitted to the congress on the Colorado river basin, and was printed as a house document but no authorizations were requested or made. It is also apparent from the chain of events noted above that it is hardly likely that the information report on the Rogue River basin would be presented to the Congress during this session.

Once the basin report has been approved and the overa-all plan of development has been laid out, the bureau of reclamation will proceed with the preparation of specific project reports to cover portions of the over-all basin plan. These specific project reports are necessary because the over-all basin report will not contain the engineering and economic information on specific sites in the detail necessary to obtain authorization for the projects. In order to be ready to ask for authorization of projects at any earlier date, however, the Bureau is already working on one or more project reports. It is expected that these project reports could be completed within approximately six months after the basin report has been approved by the secretary. These project reports must follow the same course of approval by the commissioner, the secretary, the states and federal agencies, the bureau of the budget and the president, as noted above for the basin report. Therefore, it would be almost impossible to have a project report transmitted to this session of congress. It is possible, however, that the over-all basin report and one or more project reports would be ready for transmittal to the next congress.

I trust this provides you with the information you wanted. Please call me if additional facts are required. Sincerely yours, C. Girard Dividson, assistant secretary.

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Yocum returned late Sunday from Grants Pass where they had sold their farm. They returned there Monday morning to dispose of cattle and all farm equipment, not included in the sale of the farm. They expect to be here by the week-end.

Robert E. Dodge, most excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Oregon, made his official visitation to Cape Sebastian chapter, No. 57, R. A. M., at Gold Beach, Saturday night. His home is at Ashland. A number of members from this area attended the affair.

Rev. Nick Neufeld, accompanied by Mrs. J. E. Stevenson and William West, made a trip to Portland, leaving here Sunday night. They expect to be home Thursday.

William West, employed by the Denney Logging Co., Smith River, suffered a painfully mashed foot in a logging accident Friday. He will be forced to navigate by aid of crutches for a number of days. No bones were broken, however.

Skyline Lodge, which has been under construction the past several months, north of Carpenterville, was officially opened for business last Thursday. The establishment will feature steak and chicken dinners.

Sidney Croft Lodge, No. 206, A. F. & A. M., is sponsoring a Friendship Night for all Master Masons and their wives and Eastern Star members and husbands, Friday (tomorrow) evening at 8:00 at the Odd Fellows hall. Entertainment and refreshments will be enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kerr left Saturday evening for Chehalis, Wash., to be gone about a week on business.

Mrs. Edith Low expects to visit Salem and Portland this week. It is reported that her brother is quite ill.

Gilbert Christensen, who was called to Mt. Vernon, Wash., by the serious illness of his aged mother last week, wired his family that his mother had undergone a tumor operation and was definitely improving in health.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hendry returned Thursday from McMinnville, Ore., where they had been called by the accidental death of their brother-in-law, killed on the McMinnville-Sheridan road. Drivers of both cars, which hit head-on, on a straight-away, died as result of the accident. Responsibility for the accident has not as yet been determined. Only the two drivers were in the cars at the time.

Mrs. Pete Lesmeister left on Monday by bus being called to Fresno, Calif., to become acquainted with a new granddaughter, born to Mrs. Helen Smades. She will be gone about two weeks. The young miss weighed 6 lbs., meaning that Pete was loser by six bucks at Rotary at Tuesday's luncheon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Zickler, recently of Alhambra, Calif., departed Monday for Alhambra to pack their household effects to move to this area. They expect to acquire property later and make this area their home. He was a publisher's representative in Alhambra. They stayed at the Driskoll cabins while here.

About 60 guests were present Saturday evening at a surprise party for Pastor and Mrs. Leo Van Dolson at their home, honoring their fourth wedding anniversary. A dinner set, with service for eight, was presented. Games and refreshments were enjoyed.

Bob Aston, who was star hurler for Jefferson high at Portland in 1948, has come to Brookings where he has been employed at Brimm Bros. mill, and to turn out for baseball this summer. He rooms at the Pete Lesmeister home.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Watson of Klamath Falls spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Beem.

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