WATERPOWER BILL BALKED BY SENATE

House Record Kept Clear by Passage of Bill, but Special interests in Senate Block.

SIMS BILL BASIS OF FIGHT

Agreement Reached in Conference After Hard Fight and Compromise on Few Provisions

Washington, D. C., March 6-(WASH-INGTON BUREAU OF THE JOUR-NAL)-The house of representatives, when it adopted the conference report on the waterpower bill in the last days of the session, was not deceived by any idea that this would be followed by action in the senate and ripen into the

The house, which has several times passed waterpower legislation, only to be balked by special interests in the senate desired to keep its record clear once more. Its leaders were determined that after the long struggle in conference which at times seemed im-possible to result in agreement, the blame of failure should not be placed

The bill the house passed is of particular interest because it is the first time the conferees of the two houses have agreed, and upon the framework of this perfected bill it may be assumed, the next attempt to secure legislation

Agreement was secured in large measure upon the Sims, or house bill, which has been substituted for the Shields, or senate bill, which was of entirely different character. In all its larger features the house bill was followed, establishing a federal power commission, to be composed of the secretaries of war, interior and agriculture, with power to make 50 year leases upon the navigable streams or upon the public lands or government reserves for the generation of power.

Compromise On Recapture Clause The bill provides that at the end of 50 years, if the government does not take over the plant or grant a new license to the orginal or a new grantee, annual licenses may issue from year to fear to the original grantee until final disposition for a new leasing period. On the recapture clause, which be-

came a subject of sharp debate, compromise was reached whereby the ouse provision for measuring the value of the property taken, by the net in-vestment, was adopted, but limited by "not to exceed the fair value of the roperty taken." This met the approval of all the disputants.

Payment to the United States of "reasonable annual charges in an amount to be fixed by the commission. was retained as in the Sims bill, and the only change of importance made in the matter of the federal charge was to wide that when licenses cover the use of structures owned by the United States, the charges may be readjusted in 20 years from the beginning and every 10 years thereafter, instead of periods of not less than 10 years. State and municipal plants, devoted to the public use, and small plants developing less than 50 horsepower are exempted from payment.

Waivers Provided In Act Changes which were made in conference in the amortization section direct amortization reserve rules to be applied after the first 20 years of opera-

tion, instead of from the beginning. Waiver of the conditions of the act is authorized in issuing licenses for only part of a complete project, where government land is required only for transmission lines, reservoir, or like purposes, or for plants of not over 50 horsepower, the commission using its discretion in each case as to the condition proper to be waived.

A publicity provision was added in conference, requiring that names of the lessees, the term and the money received be made public in all cases.

These are the chief variations from the Sims bill as it came from conference, significant because indicating the lines upon which legislation may in the end



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