

American Power, Light Firm Wants to Get Out of Northwest

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—(AP)—The American Power and Light company wants to get out of the power business in the Pacific northwest and intends to do so.

That was the statement made before an examiner at a securities and exchange commission hearing today by Howard L. Aller, president of American which controls the Pacific Power and Light company of Portland, Ore., and the Washington Water Power company of Spokane.

He made the statement as the final witness in a hearing on the request by American for approval by the SEC of its proposals to sell 500,000 shares of Pacific common stock to a group of New York bankers headed by B. J. Van Ingen and company for \$18,500,000.

Aller appeared on the stand at his own request after listening to the testimony of Kinsey Robinson, president of the Washington Power company. Robinson had testified at the request of William Everdell of New York, counsel for 35 preferred shareholders of Pacific.

More Economies
Robinson said he believed more economies could be made by Pacific and Washington Water Power by remaining under the same controlling hand than they would if Pacific is sold. He cited the purchase of power from Bonneville power administration which he said effected a saving for the two companies of some \$200,000 a year through a combined contract for power. He said this would be lost if Pacific is sold.

Taking the stand, Aller said Robinson's criticism of the sale was not justified, that the proposed savings by keeping Pacific and Washington water power under one management were only nominal.

"One of the best,"
However, he referred to Robinson as "one of the best power company executives in the country and the best in the American system."

Aller said he had "sent Kinsey Robinson to the Washington Water Power company to do a certain job, to fight public power. All the good work Robinson has been able to do hasn't killed it. American isn't faced with that problem now."

"There is an adage, 'the ship is greater than the crew.' I don't want to lose any of the crew but I am responsible for the ship and must keep faith with my stockholders."

Describes Growth
Aller described the growth of public power in the northwest and the proposed creation of a Columbia Valley Authority supported by President Truman.

"American wants to get out of the northwest and, gentlemen, it is going to get out as soon as it can," Aller said.

He testified he hoped Washington Water Power and Pacific Power never would be sold to public bodies. He said 67 percent of the control of the banking group proposing to purchase Pacific is opposed to sale of private utilities to public bodies and did not believe Pacific would be sold by its new owners to public groups.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26—(AP)—One of the groups which wants to buy Pacific Power & Light company said today the firm would continue to operate, as at present, if the bid is successful.

Herbert Allen, head of a group of financiers who have offered \$15,000,000 for the utility, told an Oregonian reporter that Paul B. McKee, president of Pacific Power & Light, would continue running the operations "with no strings attached."

"None of the PP&L properties will be sold to PUDs unless Paul McKee feels that he wants to sell. And McKee will not sell short of condemnation," Allen said.

Russian Deals In North China Charged by U. S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—(AP)—The state department, renewing its charges that Russia is absorbing important areas of China, said yesterday the Chinese reds are reported to have entered into secret deals with Moscow.

These deals, known as the "Moscow and Harbin agreements," are reported to grant the USSR special rights in Manchuria, the department said in a statement.

The statement was issued in support of Secretary of State Acheson's recent charge that Russia is detaching Manchuria, Outer Mongolia, Inner Mongolia and Sinkiang from China. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Y. Vishinsky called the allegations "monstrous and awkward lies."

Dealers Told of Increase in Home Appliance Output

PORTLAND, Jan. 26—F. L. Meredith, appliance manager of Westinghouse Electric Supply company, told dealers in session here that the appliance industry in 1950 will mark new heights in production volume in an effort to catch up with low inventories.

The dealers previewed two new appliances—an electric range described as radically new in design, and what is termed the first fully automatic defroster for household electric refrigerators. Leaders predicted a new high in dollar-volume sales of appliances this year.

Storm Breaks 134-Year-Old Apple Tree

VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 26—(AP)—Don't sit under the apple tree any more—it might collapse.

That was the warning of horticultural experts who surveyed Vancouver's historic 134-year-old tree today. They said it might live, but they aren't sure.

The famous old tree, growing outside what was once the stockade area of old Fort Vancouver, was broken by last week's ice storm. The larger part of its forked trunk ripped off.

The tree—according to the consensus of horticulturists—was ordered planted by Dr. John McLoughlin, Hudson's Bay factor,

India Jubilant Over Complete Independence

NEW DELHI, India, Jan. 26—(AP)—Indians rejoiced tonight in full independence. The dream of a sovereign democratic republic, nurtured by Mohandas K. Gandhi and his followers for 30 years, became a reality today.

The end of the long struggle for freedom from 178 years of allegiance to the British crown came with the inauguration of a new constitution and the installation of India's first president, 64-year-old Rajendra Prasad.

India remains, however, a voluntary economic and political member of the British Commonwealth.

Ends Allegiance
The retiring governor general, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, read the proclamation of the new republic which ended allegiance to Britain's king at solemn ceremonies in the former throne room of the viceroys at Government House.

The constitution, which took two years to draft, combines features from those of Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia and Ireland.

Federal System
Essentially federal in structure, the constitution establishes a system for union and state governments, each exercising full authority within its respective domain.

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It provides for a single judiciary, uniformity in civil and criminal laws and special all-India services common to the union and the states.

India had been a British dominion since she won freedom Aug. 15, 1947. Her sister state of Pakistan, which became sovereign along with India, remains a British dominion.

Gandhi Praised
In his inaugural address, Prasad eulogized Gandhi as the father of the new independent country and offered thanks to "the numberless men and women who, by their suffering and sacrifice, rendered the attainment of independence and establishment of this sovereign democratic republic of India possible."

He said India's foreign policy is "to live in terms of friendship with all other countries."

The president declared that within India "our program is to wipe out disease, poverty and ignorance."

"We are anxious to rehabilitate the displaced persons who have suffered and are still suffering great hardship and privation," he said.

The untouchables, numbering some 40,000,000 Indians, now may live and worship as they wish. The new republic's constitution guarantees them equality, permitting them to enter ordinary temples from which they had been barred in the belief they cause pollution to ordinary Hindus.

UNSAFE CROSSINGS
CLEVELAND—(INS)—Crossing the street between intersections accounted for forty-four per cent of all urban pedestrian deaths last year.

The Cleveland office of the street and traffic safety lighting

Ingrid Bergman Divorce Suit Due in Mexico

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26—(AP)—The long-expected divorce action of Ingrid Bergman against Dr. Peter Lindstrom is being filed in Mexico, her lawyer said today.

The likely place seems to be Juarez, Chihuahua state, just over the border from El Paso, Tex. Attaches of the fourth district court there said today however, the action had not been filed.

Nevertheless, Miss Bergman's Hollywood attorney, Greg Bautzer, said "it is my understanding that the papers have been filed or will be within a few hours."

Attorneys for Miss Bergman in Rome, Italy, where her romance with Italian Film Director Roberto Rossellini has flourished, previously disclosed that the divorce suit would be filed in Mexico.

Dr. Lindstrom, silent since the Bergman-Rossellini love affair began last spring, has been represented by New York Attorney Lawrence Brinn in negotiations with Bautzer for a property settlement.

A spokesman here for Dr. Lindstrom, John Vernon, said:

"This is a complete surprise to us. We have never been approached on it. We don't know what the Mexican thing is. The attorneys are still trying to iron out the

bureau also said persons 65 years of age and over had the highest traffic fatality rate of any age group.

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difficulties on an agreement that would apply for a California divorce which the doctor would get. This, I believe, is the only real legal divorce possible."

Bautzer told a reporter today that the settlement agreement has not been reached and negotiations are still in progress. Presumably the conversations include disposition of custody of the Lindstroms' daughter, Pia, 11, now with her father.

Legion Council Slates Talk on Mobilization

A talk on mobilization plans and installation of officers will feature the meeting of Marion county council, American Legion, Monday at 8 p.m. in Salem Legion club. Capital post 9 and auxiliary will be host.

Thomas A. Stacer, assistant state attorney general, will give a sum-

mary of plans of the government, armed forces and industry for economic mobilization and preparation for national emergency or defense. The talk is based on a conference of northwest military and industrial representatives in December.

Harold Bourbonnais, Mt. Angel, district vice commander, and Mrs. Emma Pearce, Salem, past district president, will be installing officers for new district leaders. They include Hartley LeFebvre, Woodburn, commander; Thelma Street, Salem, auxiliary president; Mildred Christensen, secretary; James H. Turnbull, Salem, is retiring commander.

Dean Melvin Geist of Willamette university will sing. Refreshments will follow the program.

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