

# GE Official Predicts Early Advent of Atomic Power

Atomic power will change the world—not at sometime in the future, but within only a few years.

The man who said this in Eugene Wednesday was William E. Johnson, general manager of the Hanford Atomic Products Operation, a General Electric Co. project.

He gave dates for this change, dates still in the lifetime of many an oldster.

And he said that "we're going to see one of the greatest world-wide revolutions—evolutions—that has ever been seen." He explained that this will be brought about by foreign countries like India being put into "a competitive relation" to the United States.

This is already underway, he said, as shown in the recent announcement by the British that they are beginning a 10-year construction program for community atomic power plants.

"It's purely a matter of economics," he explained after saying that the United States will not take to atomic power as rapidly as the rest of the world.

Fuels to produce electricity—coal, oil and wood—are much

more costly elsewhere and this cost has held back the rest of the world industrially.

He explained that Britain intends to produce its atomic power for about seven mills per kilowatt. This, he said, is competitive with some of the higher rates in the United States. (In the Northwest, with its relatively abundant hydroelectric power, energy often is produced for four mills, with Bonneville's excess generation selling for as little as two mills).



Johnson

The reason is that within only

Johnson was speaking to the several hundred power experts attending the annual meeting of the Northwest Public Power Assn. It began Wednesday morning and will end Friday.

This is the timetable he gave for atomic power in the United States:

Two per cent of the annual additions to generation facilities will be atomic by 1965.

Sixty-five per cent of these additions will be atomic by 1980.

This, he cautioned, does not mean that other generation will be outmoded by that time. He said that all forms will have to increase their capacity several fold despite the addition of atomic kilowatts.

The reason is that within only

the next nine years, energy requirements will more than double.

The increasing population, and new uses for energy, will bring this about. One of the important factors, he said, will be new household appliances, especially the heat pump and air conditioning.

This was borne out by the speaker who preceded him, Ora Beasley of Sandpoint, Ida., who estimated that Northwest homes may require five times as much electrical energy in the next few years to run these appliances.

Beasley, who warned that we have been underestimating future needs, is president of the power association.

The power men Thursday

heard talks on how to train power executives, the principles of utility taxation, power problems in Alaska, and the traditions of the West.

The annual business meeting began at 2 p.m. with reports from the officers and committees.

Scheduled to speak Friday morning are Paul J. Raver, superintendent of Seattle Power and Light; C. W. Nash, director of load development for the British Columbia Power Commission; Col. L. H. Foote, division engineer for the Corps of Engineers; and Byron Price, assistant administrator of Bonneville Power Administration.

The meeting will end shortly after noon.

## Congress Asked to Authorize Building of John Day Dam

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress was asked Thursday to authorize construction of John Day Dam on the Columbia River with local interests paying 273 million of its 310 million dollar estimated cost.

Rep. Coon (R-Ore.), who introduced the project bill, told a newsman three companies—Portland General Electric, Pacific Power & Light and Washington Water Power—as well as Eugene, Ore., are willing to join in financing the project immediately.

Local participants in return would be given 50-year contracts for the dam's power output in proportion to their participation in the cost.

The bill defines local interests as being any agency, public or private, authorized to engage in the distribution of electric energy.

Under present estimates, Coon said local interests are expected to pay roughly 273 million dollars—that portion believed allocable to power—with the federal government putting up the 37 million dollars to cover costs allocable to navigation and other non-reimbursable costs.

"In effect," the Eastern Oregon congressman said in a statement "my bill simply provides for an advance sale of power, rather than waiting until the generators are on the line before disposing of it.

"In the case of other federal projects the government takes the taxpayers' money, builds a dam, and then sells the power for money enough to pay back over a long period of years—usually 50—the amount invested in the power facilities.

"In the case of the John Day project the government would do its selling of power output first, collecting sufficient payments in advance to meet all the cost of the dam's power facilities, and then—after the money is on the barrelhead—proceeding to build the project."

Coon said sufficient expression has been received from local interests to assure the project's financial feasibility.

Although local groups would share in the dam's power output to the extent of the financial participation, the congressman emphasized that neither during the contract period nor afterward would they own any portion of the project.

"At all times the project will be wholly owned and operated by the United States, and will remain so perpetually," he said.

The 310-million-dollar project would have a minimum installed generating capacity of 1,185,000 kilowatts. It also would level the river to permit navigation in the 328-mile stretch from its mouth to Pasco, Wash.



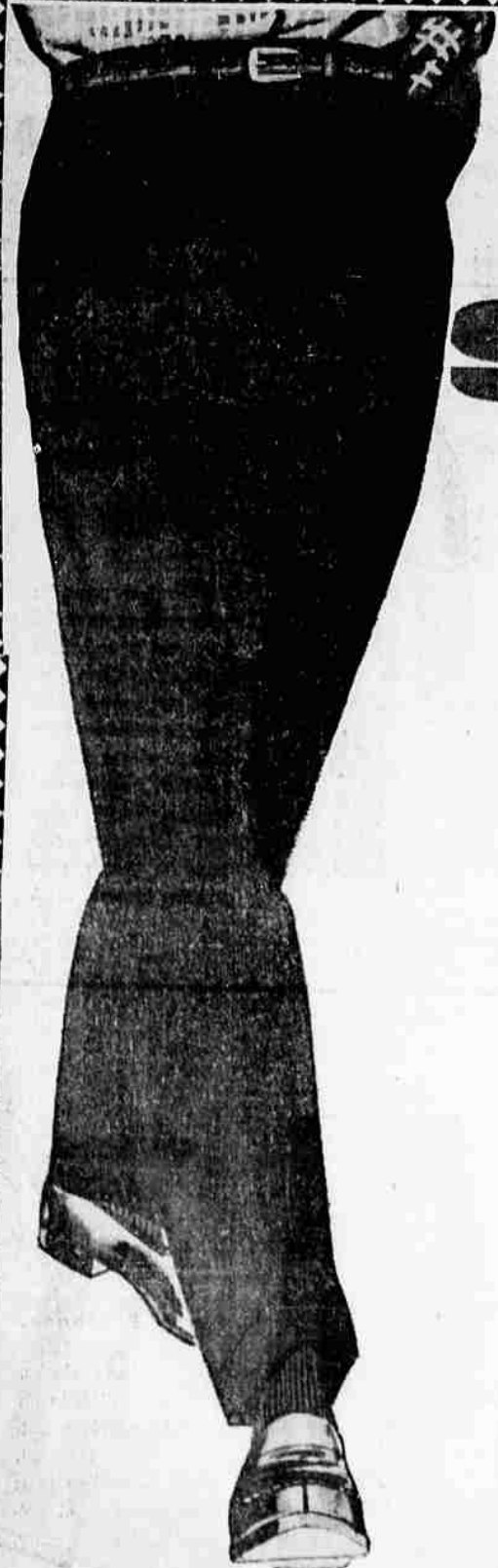
CHERRY PICKER — This maneuverable, couple-size crew's nest is on display across from the Eugene Hotel, where the sessions of the Northwest Public Power Assn. are being held. Power companies use them for line maintenance.

## Utilities Ask Start on Dam

Immediate construction of John Day Dam on the Columbia River was demanded Thursday by directors of the Washington State Public Utilities District Assn.—attending the public power convention in Eugene.

The directors said that the federal government "is standing idly by while public agencies and private companies are doing their part" in developing the region. In their resolution they stated that "John Day Dam is faced with fewer obstacles than any other dam authorized for construction by the federal partner" and they said that the federal government, if it makes no new starts, will be "fully responsible" for the power shortage predicted for 1961.

The PUD directors are attending the annual meeting of the Northwest Public Power Assn. They indicated they will not ask NWPPA consideration of their resolution.



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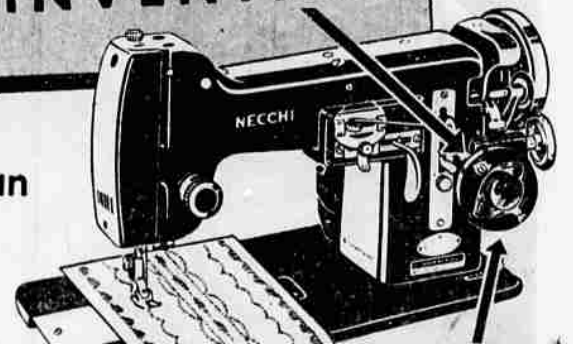
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