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What's It All About?

The state fish commission by the statement of Major C. R. Moore, district engineer for the army engineering corps, is absolved of all blame for delaying work on the four high dams proposed in the Willamette valley flood control project, Major Moore asserting that congress has not yet provided the money for the four dams, final plans have not been drawn and there will be no construction on the four big dams for at least two years.

All of this according to an Associated Press dispatch from Portland yesterday, yet an almost simultaneous report from Washington tells of passage by the house of the flood control appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1941 containing an earmarked item of \$311,000 for highway relocation work on the Detroit reservoir job—one of the high dams.

Yesterday's statements by Major Moore and Chairman John C. Veatch of the fish commission only serve to deepen the air of mystery surrounding the commencement of construction operations on the four high dams, including the Detroit structure, uncertainty regarding which has been delaying work on relocation and improvement of the Niagara-Detroit section of the North Santiam highway. If the dam is to be built, the highway improvement will be made co-operatively by the army engineers and the federal forest service; if not, by the forest service alone. But no action will be taken by the forest service looking toward construction of the highway until the question of whether the dam is to be built is finally decided.

Taking cognizance of these facts, and advised by R. H. Kipp, executive secretary of the Willamette river commission—state agency set to act in a liaison capacity between the army engineers and local groups and interests—that failure of the fish commission to issue a permit for the dam was holding up the road relocation job, the Salem Chamber of Commerce addressed a petition to the fish commission asking immediate action to expedite work on the highway. In the way of reply to the petition, Chairman Veatch is quoted as saying:

"The commission has been put on the spot, because we have been accused of holding up construction. Actually, we haven't been consulted. . . . We don't want to make any decision until we know what it is all about. . . . The federal government does not need a permit from the fish commission to construct any dam."

Does that mean that the fish commission is going to surrender its statutory authority to approve or reject plans for dams on Oregon streams to the federal government without even a struggle? If the fish commission has not "been consulted," why in view of his further statement exempting the federal government's projects from the jurisdiction of the commission should Veatch say that the commission does "not want to make any decision until we know what it is all about?"

What is behind all the dilly-dallying and buck-passing that threatens to delay needed work on the North Santiam highway "for at least two years?"

Might Defeats Right

Finland, one of the world's smallest nations, has been forced to capitulate to Russia, the world's largest nation, after an unequal struggle of 105 blood-drenched days, in which the Red army suffered repeated defeats and had as many casualties, estimated at 500,000, as composed the entire Finnish army. A glorious record of heroism has been made by the Finns, who proved themselves not only the world's finest soldiers, but the best military strategists as well. Finland's population is only one-fiftieth of that of Russia.

Russia's terms are more drastic than original demands, and the old Russian frontier of Peter the Great's time is re-established with the entire Karelian peninsula and Lake Ladoga in Russia's possession. Finland's foreign minister, V. A. Tanner, in announcing the peace, said that Finland had no choice. He continued:

"We were not prepared because we had believed in treaties. There was a lack of all sorts of equipment and a noticeable shortage of certain special important arms. . . . We had not got guarantees from other quarters. . . . Our army did well beyond all expectations. I will not use the commonplace word, heroes. I will say they fought like men. We had many great victories and only on the main frontier were we forced to withdraw, somewhat. . . . But we are a small people. The same men had to fight all the time and it was inevitable that they became tired. . . . We asked for help from Sweden. . . . Its neutrality policy did not permit it, which rendered the position still more difficult. The surrender is not our fault—it is the fault of our being forsaken by our fellow democracies. Finland will once more arise to be a vital state. We have risen from ruin before."

Nor can Finland place faith in the peace treaty with Russia. The probabilities are that the GOPU will supersede the Red army in conquest of the country and the enslavement of the Finns proceed by the usual Stalinist method.

Foreign Aid to Finland

Sweden, which makes a fetish of neutrality, seems greatly relieved by the ending of the Russo-Finnish war, but will probably regret it in the near future, for it places Scandinavia in the Russian orbit with full control of the inner Baltic. Although plenty of sympathy was extended the Finns, wars cannot be won on sympathy, and the Swedish and Norwegian governments were adamant against either military aid or foreign intervention.

In Germany the Russo-Finnish peace is held as a great defeat for the allies, as it prevents an extension of the war to the north and a flank attack by keeping Scandinavia neutral and insuring Germany a lifeline of supplies.

The British and French have been slow to extend armed assistance, but stood ready to act if requested. Had Hore-Belisha and the French had their way, the story would be different. But with Sweden refusing to permit troops or military supplies to pass through to Finland, transportation would have been difficult, and impossible if not wanted by the Finns.

Americans cannot very well blame other nations for not coming to Finland's rescue. We refused to ourselves. After weeks of debate, congress passed a measure extending \$100,000,000 credits for foreign nations for peace purchases, of which only one-fifth went to Finland. Sweden got as much, so did China, and South America the rest. We banned military supplies for Finland, but at the same time permitted other belligerents to buy airplanes, etc., and supplied Russia with war minerals and airplane gasoline to fight the Finns.

Parental Problems

By Beck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

If we knew the plural of Goliath we'd remark that the streets of our fair city are alive with Goliaths. Golia or just Goliaths—but as it is, we'd better remark the streets are alive with young giants from over the state, any one of whom is certified to be able to hit

a fly in the eye with a basketball at 30 paces, and not even touch the fly's eyelid. This, generally, is considered quite a difficult feat besides being rather hard on the fly. The collection of five young Golia who can come nearest to the fly's pupil will be crowned joint emperors of Oregon basketball come Saturday night. Your columnist is glad the sporting editor is to do the literary end of this basketball tournament. As looking some of the young visitors over makes us falter at the idea of being in a position where we would have to make slighting remarks about their prowess, either on or off the basketball floor. So, good luck to the sporting editor, with hopes he'll still be able to enjoy the next week-end.

Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Miracle

Bloomville, N. Y.—E. W. Simmons, machinery dealer, picked up a letter—with a \$300 check attached and read:

"This should pay my debt to you."

When Simmons checked his ledgers, he found that the writer had left town in 1922 owing him \$114. The check took care of that, the letter said, "plus interest."

Practical Jokers

Waukegan, Ill.—Postmaster Joseph P. Daly and restaurant owner Harry Kilbane are still friends—even though Jim Farley didn't come to lunch.

Kilbane didn't spare the horses after Daly phoned that he was bringing Postmaster-General Farley and four others to lunch. He scrubbed the back room. He bought a new table. He borrowed fine silverware and installed a radio.

But when Daly and five companions showed up, Farley wasn't among those present. Instead the six spread their own meal on the new table, ate, left a four-cent tip and departed.

Found: One Owner
Twin Falls, Idaho—A radio found in a doorway was turned over to the sheriff's office.

Deputies tried unsuccessfully to find the owner.

Then they found out it had been stolen from a sheriff's car being repaired.

Out of Luck
Hawthorne, Calif.—Behind the eight balls:

Police booked a youth on suspicion of stealing eight balls from a bowling alley.

Trapshooter Dies In Auto Accident
Portland, March 13 (P)—P. Alfred Hansen, 34, of Spokane, died last night of injuries suffered Sunday in an automobile accident.

The driver of the car in which he was riding, B. M. Hayes, was arrested after the crash on a charge of failing to give right-of-way. Patrolman Frank Payer said. With Hansen's death, the case was turned over to the district attorney.

Hansen, member of a Spokane trapshooting team, was here for an inter-city match with a Portland team.

Brooks—Mrs. Lena Ramp of Portland spent the week-end at the home of the B. F. Ramps.

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Kelly Says:

One Vote Builds Transmission Lines

Public Ownership Sentiment Weaker

Mott's Speech Gets Amendment Withdrawn

By John W. Kelly

Washington, March 13.—Change of a single vote in the house would have prohibited Administrator Raver, of Bonneville, from building transmission lines in eastern Oregon and eastern Washington. By that narrow margin (it was a tie, 70 to 70), has the house authorized transmission lines from Pendleton to Pasco and from Pasco to Colfax, costing \$4,000,000.

By a bare three votes the house failed to adopt an amendment which would have prevented payment to any employee of Bonneville, who promoted and electrified in a PUD campaign. As the Hatch act (keeping government workers out of active politics), is presumed to apply to Bonneville employees equally with postmasters, United States marshals, collectors of customs, etc., the amendment was defeated because it was considered superfluous. The defeat of the proposal is not to be interpreted as approval by congress of what some of the Bonneville "field men" and "consultants" have been doing.

Changed Attitude Shown

Significance of the close votes is the changed attitude of congress toward expanding public ownership and permitting government employees to force private business out of existence.

The attitude of the house is this: Bonneville administration is a sales agency which is limited by law to sell wholesale and not retail and can sell only to large industries, municipalities, public utility districts, cooperatives and private utilities. Thus far the market for Bonneville power has been in the western part of Oregon and Washington, where industries, municipalities, public and private utilities, have made contracts. All that is legitimate and business-like.

Extension of transmission lines into eastern Washington and eastern Oregon was charged as poor business for these reasons: There are no PUD's in that region and wherever an attempt has been made to form a district it has been rejected. There are no big industries. No cities are applying for power. (Pendleton has declared it does not wish to be included in a proposed county PUD in Umatilla). The area is sparsely settled and is already being served by private companies. When and if a market develops will be time enough to build the lines. At present the return would be about \$30,000 to \$40,000 on the tremendous investment.

Pierce Cites Experience

LaGrande hopes for a reclamation project and developing its own power. Representative Walter M. Pierce, resident of LaGrande, disputed the assertion that in no conceivable circumstance would a line to that city ever return the investment on a line from Pendleton. Mr. Pierce says there is plenty of income there, explaining that 30 years ago he owned and managed the electric company furnishing power to LaGrande; that he was collecting \$50,000 a month; had an income of \$60,000 a year and sold out "to the big fellows" for \$300,000. The company now serving LaGrande, asserted Mr. Pierce, is charging extortionate rates—three times the rate charged in Tacoma.

There is no disposition to cripple Bonneville but to protect it from those people who would load it up with expenditures it cannot carry and produce upon, asserted congressmen in opposing the Pendleton-Pasco line (next year, they said, \$100,000 would be wanted to build to LaGrande). The only proposed amendment which might cripple Bonneville (offered by a Massachusetts representative), was withdrawn when Oregon's Jim Mott made a quiet, personal explanation to the author.

Being a tie-vote the proposed tabu

on Inland Empire lines was styled.

Evidence Deleted

Openly the charge was made that much of the evidence of Bonneville workers devoting their time to electioneering for PUD's has been deleted from the official record of the hearings on this subject. However, enough was shown to convince members that a number of payrolls of Bonneville were running wild in Oregon, Washington and Idaho undertaking the promotion and campaigning for PUD's.

In open debate on the house floor the official hide of Dr. Carl Thompson was nailed to the barn door. Thompson, according to the evidence, was on a salary of \$5000 from Bonneville and at the same time was running a magazine and busily engaged in promoting utility districts and campaigning for them. Not one voice was raised to defend or justify the employees of Bonneville in their public ownership propaganda; not even a single member of the so-called "power bloc" in the house.

Defeat, by three votes, of an amendment to withhold pay from propaganda workers was based on two reasons: Assumption that the activities in evidence took place prior to enactment of the Hatch act; belief that the Hatch act will deal with any future repetition of past electioneering.

House of representatives is placing Bonneville administration on notice that politics must be eliminated; that millions must not be spent building lines into a territory until a market justifies the outlay. "Power bloc" members (there are not many), imply that fellow house members are used as tools to spread propaganda of the so-called power trust.

Pensioners Rejected OCF Proposal

The Oregon Pension Federation decided yesterday to go no further toward agreement with the Oregon Commonwealth Federation in an age pension measure for the Oregon ballot, and rejected initiative proposals in favor of an attempt to get action by the legislature. The commonwealth federation's proposal has not yet been filed in full compliance with law.

The pension federation, through its executive board, decided to recommend legislation "to increase the amount of state aid for needy citizens enough to get full benefit of assistance now available from the federal government," and to change the legal definition of the word "need" to make it less restrictive, and to repeal the law giving the state a preferred claim against the estate of a beneficiary of age assistance.

Mill City Resident

Mill City—A new resident in the community is Mrs. Esther Easton, who is employed in the office of the Mill City Light and Water plant. Mrs. Easton, the sister of Mrs. Virgil Tuel of Stayton, is making her home at the Hill apartments.

Flash!

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Senior Class Actors Working On "June Mad"

Silverton—This year's senior class play, "June Mad," to be presented March 15, at the new senior high school auditorium, promises to be a real success. The cast has been working on their parts and at rehearsals for several weeks. Talented characters are filling the roles.

The play, "June Mad," is a new production, having been released only last year. It is a play about young people of high school age, based upon the novel "This Awful Age." The story is the dramatization of several days in a girl's life and has a plot distinctly all its own. Penny Woods is the leading girl character and is played by Caroline Kaufman. Penny's efforts to pretend she is a grown woman when she is only a girl of 15 lend many a laugh.

Supporting Mrs. Woods are Marilyn Warwick as Chuck Harris, the next door neighbor boy; Bernice Hannan as Penny's understanding mother, Mrs. Wood; Chet Carson, as her father, Dr. Wood; Mervin Dulum, Mrs. Wood's brother, Mervyn Roberts; Jack Lincoln, the hired man, Elmer Tuttle; Barbara Pennell as Effie, the maid; Phyllis Adams as Millie Lou, a neighbor girl; Vernon Barkhurst as Roger Van Fleck, a college friend of Mervyn; Glenn Baker as Mr. Harris, Chuck's father; Marie Anne Whitlock as Shirley Wentworth, another of Penny's friends; Marvin Melbye as Ralph Wentworth, a friend of the Woods' family, and Veria Aycock as Julia Harris, Chuck's sister. Guy Delay is directing the play.

Beer Glass Found Free of Bacteria

For the first time in the history of inspection within the corporate limits of the city, a beer glass has been found which did not show a single bacteria count. In making a report today upon a recent investigation by Batty Cooper, city sanitary inspector, the perfectly clean glass was set forth as exhibit "A." Every effort was made to detect

germs but none was found. The place from where it was removed was not divulged. A bacteria count of 50 is considered clean for purposes of the inspection.

A number of other glasses, spoons and forks, picked up at random by Cooper, revealed exceptionally low bacteria count. In three instances where the count was higher than the minimum allowance, dish-washing methods were investigated and suggestions made which should improve the situation.

Food handlers are being checked periodically in an effort to detect contagious diseases.

Cops Run Down Mystery Whistle

Omaha, Neb., March 13 (P)—Cruiser Officers Harold Kelly and Hugh Ashburn were summoned to investigate a "mysterious whistle" in an apartment house neighborhood.

They heard the whistle, but saw only a lone youngster running along the street.

"Sure I know where that whistle is coming from," the youngster retorted to the officers' query. "That's my old man whistling me home to supper."

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