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HELLS CANYON AGAIN

A debate was held in Salem this weekend over Hells Canyon dam and whether it should be built by the federal government at an ESTIMATED cost of \$313 million for the high dam or by the Idaho Power company which would build five low dams and pay taxes on them. There would be no cost to the people. Citizens of Baker county did the debating.

It was a typical power battle with proponents of public power discoursing on the necessity of the federal program which would follow a plan and the opponents talking about an almost discarded theory—private business. Discarded, it is, because many have come to believe the theory that what is built by the federal government is without cost to the taxpayers.

The government has plans for a dam below Hells Canyon which would be about as high and would probably do as much as Hells Canyon for power but it wouldn't foreclose on the possibilities for the five dams of the private company, which seems to be one of the desires of the government, apparently in a dither to stop all competition. That all brings back the arguments made years ago: that people were people regardless of anything and that a federal power agent was

just as grasping as a private power agent, that neither want any competition. The only difference is that there is a means of handling a private power agency and no way yet discovered to handle a federal agency.

Should there be a decision against building Hells Canyon it is likely that the government would go ahead with The Dalles dam which would produce more power than would Hells Canyon which is listed at some 688,000 kilowatts whereas The Dalles dam would produce 980,000. One of the reasons for delaying The Dalles (and eventually the John Day dam) is that the government apparently wants to cut out the Idaho Power company from projected construction.

Hells Canyon's power is 94.71 percent of its total value whereas the dams in the Columbia would be useful for irrigation and navigation as well.

So far no agency has been successful in halting the government's surge for power in electrical development. It wants to run the whole show and seems on the way to be doing it. Grave doubt has arisen in the minds of many early power advocates about intentions of the government. Now they wonder how some little competition can be brought into the picture.

Chances are it is too late. Without a political revolution we are probably doomed to becoming entirely socialistic with people having about the same right to howl as a buck private who will say what he wants to as long as the sergeant doesn't hear him.

TAX PROGRAM

It is not likely that the opinion of the attorney general about the effects of HJR 12 (the resolution that would remove the state from the property-tax field) will have much effect on the possibility of final passage. All the effects he enumerated had been considered. The only difference his opinion makes is that it may now be desirable to pass some of the legislation transferring appropriations for schools to the general fund from the property tax fund. It would have had to be done in 1953 had the resolution been approved by the people and transfer now should strengthen the possibility of passage.

Another opinion, this by the state tax commission, has materially aided the passage of another tax bill, HB 131, which would remove exemptions now given to utilities and skyscraper owners from the corporation tax. These exemptions have been long enjoyed. Argument of the utilities is that their assessments have been kept high by the state tax commission and that they were, in effect, paying a corporation tax in the guise of a property tax. The tax commission said NO.

Several county officials have protested against passage of HB-131 in fear that if it passed the utilities would pay less into the tax fund of the counties. The opinion by the tax commission is that the assessments are fair and that little, or no, change would be made in county tax receipts from utilities.

Next step may be the filing of a suit by the utilities against the state tax commission in an effort to prove their case. In that case a decision by the supreme court would definitely determine the validity of the ratios and assessment methods of the commission or make a change necessary. Whichever way the decision went it would help clarify a serious problem in Oregon's tax methods.

In any case this session of the legislature, aided largely by the information obtained by the state tax study committee, has been able to dig deeper into the tax system than for many years and the evidence will be available so that the reforms can go on.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Douma of Portland spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Shipley.

STANLEY EARL ON KOREA

Readers will remember the furor that Stanley Earl, former secretary to the CIO in Oregon, caused when he returned from Korea last summer with his criticism of the administration policies in that land.

Since then Earl has been going about the state making speeches about the state making speeches about conditions in Korea. He says that the administration of syngman Rhee was never a democracy, that it was corrupt and used many of our \$800 million for its own purposes, that it kept a police force to oppress its enemies, that it developed no agricultural, labor or industrial reform. Also, he says, it masked as a democracy which caused all sensible Koreans to turn against the theory of government we were anxious to promote.

We made a very poor showing in Korea and the people continued to die of disease, starvation and oppression while living under what passed as a modern democracy. No wonder the communists were able to gain headway with promises of land reform, plentiful rice and free speech.

In addition to all this our state department announced in January of last year that Korea was not within our orbit of defense which encouraged the North Korean communists to attack. We had no defenses at the time, a statement that will be remembered by every newspaper reader.

Mr. Earl does not think that Russia has intention to attack the United States militarily. Russia, he says, is having too much success with its present policy. By starting a little trouble in Korea, Russia has been able to upset our economy, to scare our state department, to cause trouble between labor and management and to increase our rate of inflation until no one can foretell what might happen.

So what, Mr. Earl, too, waves his hands in the air. We need a foreign policy, we need to have the truth told to the people, we need to clean our own house.

RUFUS HOME EC CLUB MEETS AT MORRIS HOME

The Home Economics Club of Rufus grange met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Walter Morris with Mrs. Will Huck as co-hostess. A one-thirty desert luncheon was served, after which the business meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mrs. Rolland Johnson.

The women brought fan quilt blocks and sewed them on white squares during the afternoon. The Home Ec Club will put on the Lecturer's Hour at the hall at the April 5th meeting. Each member is to bring a gift for her secret pal who will be revealed at this meeting.

Final arrangements were decided upon for the basket social and dance to be held at the grange hall March 17. Mrs. Joe Morris won the drawing prize. Members present besides the hostesses were Mrs. Andy Engberg, Mrs. Herman Brackett, Mrs. Harland McDonald, Mrs. Atlee Wilson, Mrs. Robert Byrd, Mrs. Joe Morris, Mrs. George Fox, Mrs. Grace Medler, Mrs. Luther Steward, Mrs. Alta Smith, Mrs. Tracy Fields and Mrs. Rolland Johnson.

Oregon Delegation To National 4-H Club Camp To Be Held In Washington

Oregon's delegates to the 1951 National 4-H Club Camp, to be held in June in Washington, D. C. were named this week by L. J. "Doc" Allen, state 4-H club leader. They are: Kathleen Johnston, 19, of Klamath Falls; Deloris Sell, 20, of Kiverton; Ronald Baker, 19, of Ione; and Francis Reynolds, 18, of Prineville.

The top four 4-H club members from each state, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico will meet in the nation's capitol for a week of citizenship training. They will hear nationally known speakers, visit historic shrines, and have a chance to get acquainted with the Congressmen from their home states.

The youths were selected for their outstanding records in leadership, scholarship, and general 4-H achievement. Their accomplishments lie in many fields.

Kathleen Johnston has completed both livestock and home-making projects and has been food preservation champion of county and state fairs. She organized the first home economics 4-H club in her community, served as president, and is now leader. Last year she received a Sears Roebuck Foundation scholarship in a 4-H girl's achievement contest.

Doris Sell says that 4-H came to her rescue 12 years ago. One of nine children, she found that learning to make her clothes stretched her monthly allowance twice as far. She has made 71 garments and canned 1,786 quarts of food. She helped organize a county senior 4-H club, is leader of a clothing club, and has trained many homemakers in her county in sewing techniques. She, too, has a Sears scholarship.

Ronald Baker planted 400 trees as a windbreak on his father's farm, and is running tests on wheat fertilizers. He raises purebred Southdown, Hampshire, and Columbia sheep and Shorthorn cattle. Ronald has been an assistant 4-H leader and helped organize a tractor maintenance club in his community. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Baker, are both 4-H club leaders.

Francis Reynolds has been in 4-H for 11 years. He has 18 baby beef, three dairy animals and 144 hogs on his dad's 5,550-acre ranch. President of his 4-H beef club for four years, he has won scholarships to 4-H summer school at Oregon State college for

the past six years. He was elected president of the 600 boys at the 1950 summer school. Remember to send in your Red Cross donation, today.

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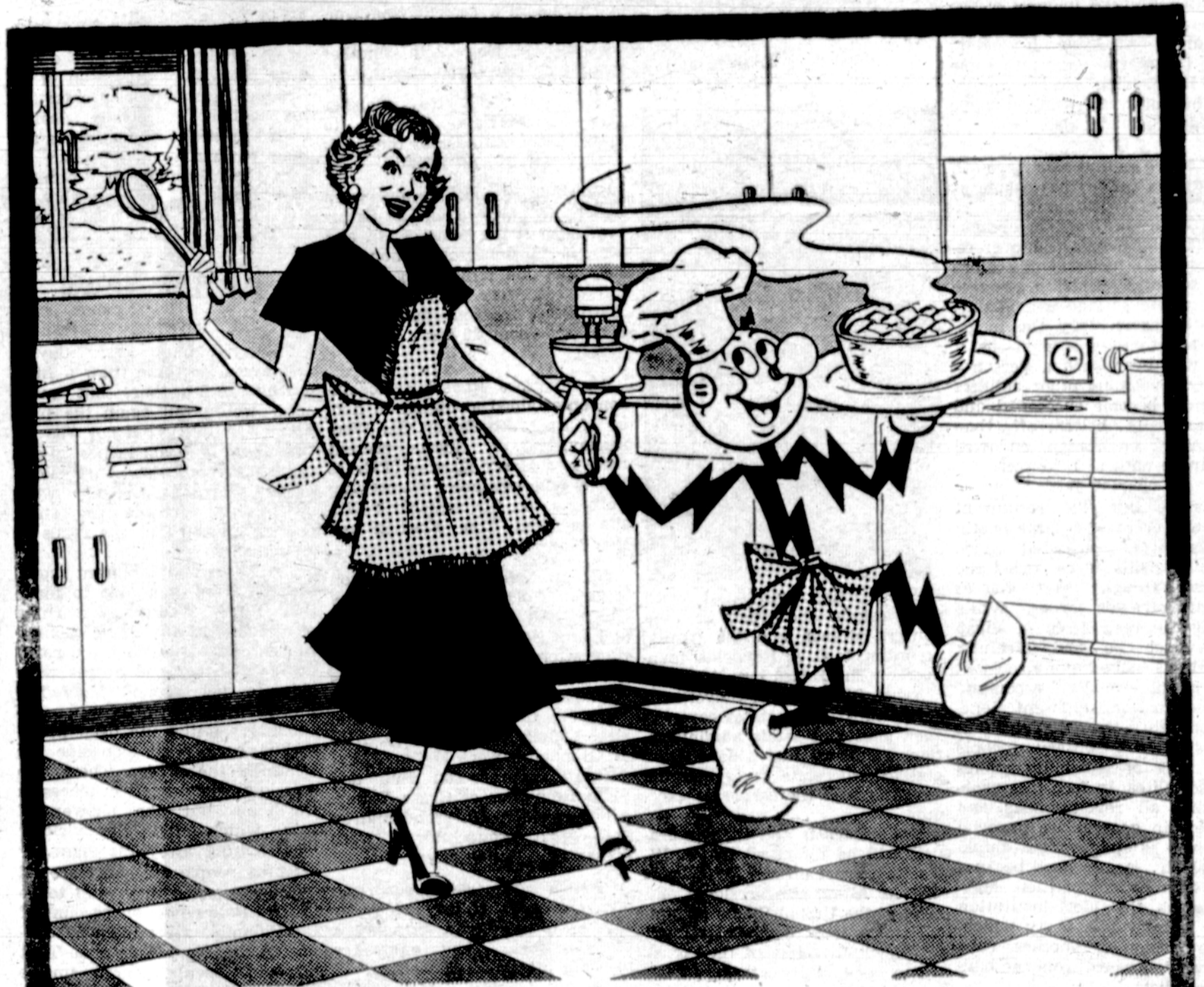
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To a young lady trying to budge a budget



Oh, how pleasant and cheerful was Adeline Bing, Until she was faced by what she called 'the thing'.

(And 'the thing' was, of course, the budget she used, Which, because of high prices, was sadly abused.)

She tearfully cried that she dared not make fudge, Nor even a cake—" 'cause the budget won't budge!"

"Just you wait! all's not lost," Reddy Kilowatt said; "Let's look at one item on which you're ahead."

Then he showed how electrical rates have come down To the point that they're now the best bargain in town.

So now Adeline's happy, 'cause she can recall That there's ONE budget bargain in spite of it all!

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PP&L rate cuts since 1940 have meant total net savings to customers of more than 18 million dollars. No wonder people here say: "Electric service is the biggest bargain in 'the budget!'"

PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Watch Out For The "Blind-Spots"

Stopped by Squint Miller's farm the other day and saw a vinegar bottle in his kitchen with an oversized cucumber inside it. The cucumber filled the whole bottle.

"What's a cucumber doing in there?" I asked him. "That's my 'blind-spot' reminder," says Squint. "My grandmother kept one in her kitchen to remind her to take stock of herself now and then."

"I slipped that bottle over the cucumber when it was just starting to grow on the vine," he went on. "And like certain viewpoints,

not noticed, it just grew and grew—now it's there to stay."

From where I sit, we could take a cue from Squint and watch for our own "blind-spots" and prejudices before they grow too big to get rid of. We've got to respect our neighbor's right to his preferences... preferences for a certain make of car, a favorite movie star, or a temperate glass of beer after work. We won't be tripped by any blind spots if we keep our eyes—and minds—open!

Joe Marsh

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