

Letter from Washington--

Harris Ellsworth
4th District, Oregon

In about two weeks, the Federal Highway Aid Act of 1948 may be acted upon by the House of Representatives. The bill which was reported to the House in the form of a "clean" bill is now designated as H.R. 5888. It authorizes appropriations for federal aid highways, and the authorization extends for the ensuing three fiscal years.

An important improvement in the road bill just reported is that it provides that a state may have three years after the close of the fiscal year for which the sums are authorized in which to complete construction contracts. Previously, the states were required to complete their expenditures within one year.

I believe most of the members of the House of Representatives who voted for the European Recovery bill were displeased with the plan, disliked the bill, and did not feel that the enormous expenditures authorized would accomplish the results claimed by the sponsors of the bill. Then why, under the circumstances, did they vote for it? There are many parts to a complete answer to that question, but the underlying fundamental reason is that the governments of Western Europe were assured months ago that Congress would approve the plan. They began counting definitely on it when the bill passed the Senate with only eleven dissenting votes. Had the House rejected the ERP at this critical time, the reaction not only in Europe but throughout the world would have been disastrous, and I mean ultimately disastrous to the United States. Furthermore, we had only the flat choice of doing this or nothing at all.

After nearly ten years of investigation and study of the possibility of improving and developing the water resources of the Rogue River Basin the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has issued a preliminary report. The report is entitled "Alternative Plans for Development of the Water Resources of the Rogue River Basin, Oregon." A public hearing in connection with this report will be held in Medford on June 8th. The purpose of the hearing will be to obtain information and opinions from local people concerning the alternate development plans suggested.

It should be clearly understood that no hasty decision will be made on this project. Many steps must be taken and much time must elapse before a final decision is reached and construction is actually started. After the hearing is held, the Regional Director makes a report to the Commissioner of Reclamation. This report is reviewed in Washington by the Commissioner and by the heads of the several divisions of the Department of the Interior, including the Bureau of Mines, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, etc. All concerned express opinions, offer suggestions or objections, and a proposed final report is then adopted.

IT NEVER FAILS



This report will be sent to the Governor of the State for review by the State Engineer and the State Game Commission. A copy is also sent to the Secretary of the Army for his comments, and to the Secretaries of Commerce and Agriculture, and to the Federal Power Commission. Comments from all of these people, including the Governor, are requested to be made within ninety days.

After the comments are received, the report, together with the comments, are sent to the President through the Bureau of the Budget. After approval by the Budget, it comes back to the Secretary of the Interior and becomes the Secretary's official report.

In the case of the Rogue River report, it will be sent to Congress with the recommendations of the

Secretary of the Interior. In Congress, it will be referred to the Public Lands Committee. A bill may then be prepared and introduced. After such a bill is introduced in Congress, the committees of both House and Senate will undoubtedly hold hearings on it, where all matters in disagreement may again be reviewed. If a bill authorizing the construction of a Rogue River project is passed by Congress, no work can be started until an appropriation is made by Congress.

The procedure here outlined is the procedure through which all such proposals must go. It is a long and complicated procedure, but one thing is certain: If a proposal stands up under all of this screening and investigation, and is finally given an appropriation for construction, it must be a good and valuable project. It must be a project that is economically sound and of proven benefit.



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PUBLIC HEALTH ASSN. TO MEET APRIL 20

County residents are reminded of the lecture to be given by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Genne on successful family living at the annual meeting of the Jackson County Public Health Association next Tuesday evening, April 20, at the Rouge Valley Country Club dining room in Medford. The lectures are to be preceded by dinner and annual reports of the Association at 6:30.

Mr. and Mrs. Genne have both made extensive studies in the field of family relationships, spending a year in England and Sweden studying the background of family customs there, and are said to have a message of real value to every family unit. "Is Your Home a Cell?" has been chosen as their topic for the evening meeting while "It is Dark on Observatory Hill" will be the topic they discuss with the students of Southern Oregon college on the same day.

Mr. Genne is professor of Family Life Education and chaplain of Pacific University and Mrs. Genne has her masters degree in student personnel administration. They are both active in the Northwest Conference of Family Relations and serve as co-chairmen of the Commission on Christian Living with the Oregon Council of Churches.

They are especially interested in

helping young men and women prepare themselves for successful family living and besides these lectures which they are frequently asked to give they conduct family living classes with both college students and parents. They have two children, Nancy and Tommy, who make their home a real laboratory for the ideas they share with other parents.

The lectures here are sponsored by the Social Hygiene Division of the Health Association as a part of their national program for education in more successful family living.

For reservations for the dinner phone or write Mrs. John Clark in Central Point, Mrs. Austin Jones in Rogue River and Mrs. Norman Gail in Gold Hill. Reservations must be in before 6 p.m. Saturday, April 17.

This annual meeting of the Health Association is being held in the evening this year since it is felt husbands, older children and young couples contemplating marriage especially should hear Mr. and Mrs. Genne, according to Mrs. Jean Hart, president of the Association.

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