

'Unauthorized Encroachment' Charged To Oregon In Plans for Pelton Dam on Deschutes River

Washington — (U.P.) — An attorney for the Federal Power Commission told the Supreme Court yesterday that Oregon has attempted an "unauthorized encroachment" on U.S. property in seeking to bar construction of a dam on the Deschutes river.

The FPC attorney, Willard W. Gatchell, must decide whether Congress "does or does not have rights to water across its land."

Assistant Oregon Attorney General Arthur G. Higgs asserted, however, that under the desert land act of 1877 the federal government severed all water from the public domain and surrendered to the states the right to control use of non-navigable waters.

Objection Upheld Last Year
The U. S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld Oregon's objection to the "Pelton project" last year. It rules that ownership of the site does not give the government power to use the river's water "contrary to the Oregon state law."

Oregon contends the dam would seriously curtail the region's fish supply by preventing salmon and steelhead trout from going upstream to spawning grounds.

The FPC lawyer disagreed. He said the project included facilities that probably would increase the stream's fish resources.

Gatchell contended the "public lands" reference in the desert land act does not apply to the site of the proposed dam. He

said the site is bounded by land "reserved" to the federal government. Therefore, he said, the U. S. has control over the water.

Must Pay for Use
Justice Hugo L. Black asked if it would be possible for the government to block and use all

of the Deschutes' water under the FPC's interpretation of U. S. water rights. The FPC attorney said that if the government did take such a step, the Bureau of Reclamation would be required by law to pay for use of the water.

The controversy started in



EXPRESSING OPPOSITION To Eisenhower administration's proposed military cutbacks, Gen. Matthew Ridgway, Army chief of staff, tells secret session of Senate Armed Services committee they endanger national security. He is chatting with Army Secretary Robert Stevens before taking stand. (International)

Broadcast Union Strike 'Imminent'

San Francisco — (U.P.) — The CIO National association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians union said today a nationwide strike against the National Broadcasting Company and American Broadcasting Company was "imminent."

The union, which represents radio and TV engineers, script writers and editors, said its membership has rejected a new contract negotiated early this year.

No date for the strike was announced and Union President Cliff Rothery said an attempt would be made to negotiate the disputed issues in the contract.

Rothery said he believed the membership rejected the contract because of unsatisfactory settlement of fringe benefits. He said the contract provided an eight per cent wage increase.

The disputed issues included the wage scales of non-technical employees, jurisdiction over film production and editing for

TV, a job security provision and length of the contract.

Rothery said the membership opposed the three-year contract opposed by the networks.

Forest Grove Phone Rate Case Recessed

Hillsboro — (U.P.) — A Public Utilities Commission hearing on West Coast Telephone Company's request for a rate increase amounting to about 20 per cent in the Forest Grove area today was in recess until tomorrow.

At yesterday's session some 150 persons attended. Two state legislators, Sen. J. O. Johnson of Metzger and Rep. Leon S. Davis of Laurel were among those objecting to the proposed increase. Edwin Graham, telephone company attorney, said higher taxes and wage increases made the rate boost necessary.

Expensive Steinway Piano Found Not For Liberace Use

San Francisco — (U.P.) — The world's most expensive piano is for sale, but Liberace can't buy it.

The piano can be had for \$100,000, but unfortunately for Mary Kay Van Voorhees, who is vending the colossal knick-knack, it was built by Steinway.

"Mr. Liberace's manager, Seymour Heller, was terribly interested in it until he found out it was a Steinway," she said. "You see, Mr. Liberace has endorsed another make of piano and he just couldn't buy a Steinway."

Nevertheless, Mrs. Van Voorhees is confident she can sell the instrument.

"It's the only one of its kind in the world and it's a real bargain," she said.

The bargain measures some 15 feet in length and is slightly larger than the standard concert grand piano. Its magnificent rosewood case is inlaid with walnut, ebony, and tulip wood, as well as mother-of-pearl and tortoise shell. All hinges and pedals are gold-plated.

Swapped Yacht
Designed by Cottier and Co. of New York, the Renaissance case of the instrument was begun in 1895 at the order of Mrs. Henry Payne Whitney, one of the leaders in New York society. The piano was delivered to Mrs. Whitney some 15 years later.

Around the sides of the instrument are hand-painted miniatures of nine composers, including Bach, Beethoven, Haydn and Wagner. On the top of the piano are ornate inlays of crossed violins and a 22-word motto.

On the underside of the lid is a painted woodland scene complete with nymphs, ruined temples and swirling mists.

The present owner, a retired business man in Santa Barbara who asks that his name be kept secret to avoid crackpot offers for the mammoth instrument, acquired the piano by swapping his yacht for it.

high hydroelectric dam on the non-navigable stream at a site in Jefferson county. The government says the dam would help alleviate the power shortage in the northwest.

Oregon argued that it has control over waters located within the state. It said the FPC had no authority to allow the electric company to build a dam unless the company complied with the state law providing protection for the migration of fish.

State Hospital Plans Released

Portland — (U.P.) — The architect's preliminary plans for the \$14,000,000 state mental hospital to be built in this area were released yesterday.

Architect Glenn Stanton said his designs called for locating the hospital on 600 acres of "rolling, open tillable" land.

Stanton's plans call for a 450-bed receiving, treatment and medical-surgical hospital; a 570-bed continued treatment hospital; a 480-bed domiciliary-geriatrics hospital, and various service, recreational and housing units. Greenhouses and orchards also are included.

Voters in the 1952 general election approved \$3,000,000 for the geriatrics and domiciliary unit, but the 1953 legislature failed to appropriate the monies. A measure has been introduced in the current legislature to appropriate the sum. Gov. Paul Patterson has asked for \$6,330,000 to finance initial construction phases this year.

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Robert Root Among Opponents for Hike In Unemployment Pay

Salem — (U.P.) — A bill to increase unemployment benefits, recommended by the governor's advisory committee on unemployment insurance, was discussed pro and con at a public hearing yesterday afternoon before the Senate Labor and Industries committee headed by Sen. George A. Ulett of Coquille.

Favoring passage of senate bill 360 were labor leaders E. S. Benjamin of the Teamsters union, J. T. Marr of the AFL and George Brown of the CIO. Also favoring it was H. E. Carlson of Portland, representing the Oregon Independent Grocers association and one of the members of the governor's advisory committee.

Opponents included J. E. Claire of the Apple Growers association of Hood River; Wilson Appleton, Hood River fruit packer; Robert Root, former state representative and Jackson county fruit packer; Henry Howard, Eugene fruit grower, and James Cellars, of the Columbia River Packers association.

The committee also heard six witnesses for and against Senate bill 4 which contains a provision to include businesses employing one or more workers. The present minimum is four.

Heavy Burden Seen
Supporters included Marr, Brown and Mrs. Alice Westling of the Oregon State Culinary Alliance, who said girls who found themselves out of work after being employed by small firms can get as hungry as those working for large firms.

Opponents to the measure in-

cluded E. L. Wilson, past president of the Portland Apartment House Operators association, and C. C. Chapman, publisher of the Oregon Voter, who said a heavy burden on many small firms.

Natural Gas Signs Seen Near Ontario

Ontario, Ore. — (U.P.) — Oroco Gas company has discovered signs of natural gas in a second test well it has sunk near here, it was announced today by Company President H. K. Riddle.

Gas also was discovered some weeks ago in a test shaft sunk near Payette, Ida.

Riddle said the Ontario drill crew had stopped yesterday morning to change a bit when the well started blowing mud out of the hole. The "blow" almost caused damage to the well and equipment, Riddle said.

Experiments will be conducted in an effort to find where the gas sands are located, he said. Meanwhile, Riddle said, plans have been made to sink pipe in the Payette well to make production tests for gas to see if the reservoir is of sufficient quantity for commercial production.

Eisenhower Receives No. 1 Angling Permit

Washington — (U.P.) — Gov. Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado today gave President Eisenhower the No. 1 non-resident Colorado fishing license for the 1955 season.

Mr. Eisenhower, who likes to fish during his Colorado vacations each summer, said he valued the license very highly.

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