



DEMOCRATIC POWWOW—The 'big three' in Democratic circles, left to right, Sam Rayburn, Lyndon Johnson and Adlai Stevenson, hold a press conference after their earlier, private meeting at Johnson's ranch, Johnson City, Tex. Stevenson insisted, "This is not a political gathering, it is a social visit with two of the oldest friends I have who happen to be in politics."

McKay To Reach Decision Soon On Smith River O&C Timber Sales

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay will decide, probably within the coming week, whether or not to open up O&C timber sales in the Douglas county Smith river area, where salvage operations are underway, to mills outside of the Southcoast timber marketing area.

The question of opening this area has been raised by mill operators in Lane county, who at the moment are facing a shortage of saw logs. They claim the Bureau of Land Management promised to waive the existing marketing restrictions when it concentrated its access road building program in the Smith river area to enable loggers to reach beetle-infested timber in that area.

Huddling With Advisers

BLM Administrator Edward Woolley said in an interview, "I don't think the bureau ever has said the marketing restrictions will be lifted entirely."

But Woolley, who toured the entire O&C timberland region last month, is now huddling with his forestry advisers on how to handle the question posed by Lane county operators who want to get into the Smith river area next spring when BLM conducts timber sales in that area.

Without hinting what he might recommend to Secretary McKay, Woolley said BLM is considering two courses of action which have been followed in some instances in the past. One would be a temporary waiver of the marketing agreement. This was the procedure followed last year from Sept. 27 until Christmas—90 days—to open up more timber to mills caught short as a consequence of the lumber strike.

Under this temporary waiver, McKay authorized sales of up to 46,000,000 board feet of timber in the Southcoast marketing area to mills in the nearby Siuslaw and Douglas areas, but only 3,000,000 board feet was sold across the marketing line.

Emphasis on Regulation
The second possibility being considered by BLM is an emphasis on a January, 1953, regulation by which surplus timber in one area is made available to mills in other areas. It would work like this:

If BLM receives no bids in a timber sale from mills in the marketing area, then any operator can submit a sealed bid for that timber, providing his bid equals or exceeds the appraised price of the timber set by BLM. That sealed bid must remain pending for five days. If no one else bids in that period, the timber is his. If other bids are submitted within five days, then BLM sells the timber to the highest bidder at auction. This procedure under the 1953 regulation

can be followed at any time for the benefit of outside mills within 90 days of the original sale date.

The first alternative, waiving restrictions temporarily, would put all operators on the same basis in bidding for timber. BLM officials point out this would tend to increase competition and jack up prices, thereby increasing timber sale revenues for the government and the 18 O&C counties.

The second alternative, the 90-day regulation, would give the mills in the marketing area first crack at all sales and open them up to outside operators only in instances where local mills passed up the sale entirely. BLM officials say they don't know whether they will have more timber for sale from the Smith river area than local mills can consume, but they say this

procedure has been followed in numerous cases the past two years in the Southcoast marketing area.

Woolley emphasized that he isn't so much concerned about competition and the resulting price the government's timber brings as he is in preserving good forestry practices for the O&C lands.

"We want to practice good forestry without upsetting our allowable cut," said the head of BLM.

One of the reasons for the demand from Lane county is that BLM is holding back on opening up the Esmond creek access road, which will be completed in November, because cutting there would push Siuslaw "way over our allowable cut," said Woolley.

Innocence Pleaded To Stock Charge

Grants Pass—Clarence Edward Smith, 62, of 311 South Peach street, Medford, Friday pleaded innocent to charges of illegal sale of unregistered mining stock, and inducing purchase of securities by deception and fraud. He was arraigned before Circuit Judge O. J. Millard.

Smith will go on trial Dec. 20 on the stock sale charge. No date has been set for his trial on the second charge.

Mitchel Emanuel Hughes, 74, Redwood highway, Grants Pass, pleaded innocent to an indictment charging him with unlawful sale of securities. His trial on that charge is scheduled for Jan. 4, 1956. Hughes' arraignment on a secret indictment charging him with inducing purchase of securities by fraud and deception was continued until next Monday.

Names of the two men appeared as officers of the O'Brien Chrome company on stock certificates involved in alleged sales. Hughes was named as president and Smith as secretary.

Eagle Point Chapter Of FFA Holds Meeting

Eagle Point—The new Eagle Point chapter of the Future Farmers of America met last week to organize and elect officers for the 1955-56 school term.

Gale Friend was elected president. Other officers for the year will be Bob Hayes, vice-president; David Woolford, secretary; Ron Hanson, treasurer; Tom Collette, reporter, and Dick Wallace, sentinel.

The chapter is looking forward to an active year, the officers reported.

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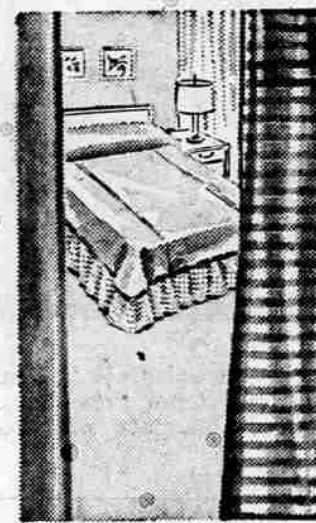
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