

John Day Dam Debate Brought to Klamath Falls by Neuberger, Coon

Klamath Falls — U. S. Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, (D-Ore.) and U. S. Congressman Sam Coon (R-Ore.) last night continued their "great debate" over power policies before a crowd of nearly 500 persons here.

The discussion, next-to-last in a series of 10, was held in the auditorium of Mills school, which was packed to near-capacity with a good-natured crowd which appeared to be about evenly divided between supporters of the two politicians and those who came to learn or just to "watch the show."

'Best of Lot'

Mike Miksche, Prineville radio station manager, a former Medford radioman who helped arrange the series of debates, said after last night's session it was "the best of the lot so far," from the standpoints of both public acceptance and argumentation.

The debate was not strictly a public power vs. private power debate, for as both acknowledged, the proposed John Day dam which is the subject of the argument would be a federal project in all respects but two: (1) The bulk of the cost of the dam (\$273,000,000) would be paid by local agencies including private power firms, and (2) These agencies, both public and private, would have distribution and retail sales rights for 50 years.

Owned by Government

The dam itself would be designed, built, operated and owned by the federal government, and would be integrated into the Northwest Power pool, under the terms of Congressman Coon's bill. Title of the debate was, "Agreed, the John Day Dam Bill is in the public interest." The congressman took the affirmative; the senator the negative.

Congressman Coon opened the debate with a 15-minute discussion of the objectives of the bill and a history of the project. The 1,105,000 kilowatts it would generate, and the navigation up the Columbia to Pasco and the flood control benefits it would provide are "needed and needed now," he maintained.

Foresees Shortage

The congressman said a critical power shortage is on its way to the Northwest by the early 1960s, and the dam should be started now. He added that the Northwest needs the equivalent of "another Bonneville dam," or 600,000 new kilowatts, each year for the next 10 years just to keep up with normal growth of the area.

"We need \$1,000,000 spent for power each day for the next 10 years," he declared. But, he queried, "Where are we going to get the money?"

Congressman Coon pointed out that federal appropriations for Northwest power have averaged only \$150,000,000 annually in recent years, a total equivalent to about one-third of the federal civil functions budget, in the area. This area alone will need the equivalent to 60 to 70 per cent of all federal public works money, he said, and he indicated that congress just wouldn't go along with spending that proportion of its money in this area.

'Sell in Advance'

The simple and only purpose of his bill is to "sell the power in advance," the congressman said, to obtain the estimated \$273,000,000 needed for construction of power facilities. The other \$37,000,000 for other purposes would be put up by the federal government, and he said he is sure congress would approve this amount.

Senator Neuberger's charge that it would "wreck the Bonneville Power administration plan," is "pure nonsense," he declared and so is the suggestion that private utilities would make huge profits in the transaction. He said Oregon laws limit to a maximum of 6 per cent the profits of private utilities.

Three-Point Attack

Senator Neuberger, in his 15-minute rebuttal period, based his attack on the bill on three related points, first, that distribution by non-federal agencies would eliminate the preference clause, under which power goes first to publicly-owned distribution agencies; second that the low Bonneville rate averaging 2.2 mills would be eliminated, and third, that as a result of the higher rates, industry would no longer be attracted to the Northwest as it was by the low BPA rate.

The senator pointed to opposition to the bill from the Rural Electrification administration cooperatives, from the Grange and from the Oregon Federation of Labor, indicating these agencies know what higher rates would mean in discouraging industry from coming to this area. He pointed out that the Northwest power system, with its federal dams and low cost power, is the most successful development for power, irrigation, navigation and flood control ever organized anywhere.

Only Three Firms

He said only three big firms are interested in the bill, none of which were interested in serving the Klamath Falls area in the extreme southwest corner of Congressman Coon's fourth congressional district. There is no chance that the John Day dam, as set up in the bill, could furnish cheap power to that area, he said.

Te cited the sale of the partly-completed BPA transmission line

to Klamath Falls to the California Oregon Power company, and said the only chance for Klamath Falls to get the cheap BPA power rate is to get the line restored. (Coon earlier had stated the line was never authorized by congress, no appropriations made for it, and that a congressional committee had ordered it dismantled, but that Secretary of the Interior McKay and then-Sen. Guy Cordon had worked out the Copco sale, thus saving the entire cost of the line which would have been lost if it had been scrapped.)

Rates Compared

The senator declared that the average power rate from private utilities was 8.2 mills, compared to BPA's 2.2 mills (which Coon claimed was a misleading comparison of "wholesale" and "retail" rates).

Senator Neuberger also pointed out the Klamath area's population gain in recent years has been only 4 per cent, compared to 40 per cent for Oregon as a whole and 14 per cent for the nation. He said the one great chance for growth here, with declining lumber sources and lowered farm income, is in industrial payrolls. The only way to attract them, he said, is through low-cost power. He cited some of the benefits in tax advantages which Wenatchee has received since a big aluminum plant went in there last year.

Raising Offer

The senator declared the power utilities are raising their offer of participation in building the dam, from \$164,000,000 last year to \$273,000,000 this year. "What will it be next year?" he asked.

He claimed the utilities stood to make \$5,000,000,000 in profits in the 50-year period they would have distribution rights on the dam, and that they don't care who owns it as long as they can have the power.

Oregon's desperate need is for year-around industry, he emphasized, and the one big advantage we have is in the BPA low cost power.

Could Get Money

During his five-minute "affirmative rebuttal" period, the senator declared that if the utilities spent as much time and money working for federal appropriations for power as they have in opposing it, congress would be willing to appropriate the funds. He cited the Bonneville repayment schedule, which is \$65,000,000 ahead of itself, and said that the Republican 1954 congress did not even approve planning funds, so 1957 would be the earliest date for John Day construction to begin.

In his final rebuttal period, Congressman Coon reiterated his stand that the power is needed now, and that "we can't wait." He charged Neuberger would prefer to let damsites lie idle rather than permit them to be built with non-federal money. He claimed support for his bill from the Army engineers, the bureau of the budget, the department of the interior, the federal power commission, and from the Oregon legislature, which supports the dam no matter how it is financed.

Cites Private Enterprise

He said his bill is designed to meet the need for power at once, and that he wants the 85 per cent of Oregon people who now are served by non-federal power agencies to have a chance to get it. He declared that, while the dam would be a federal project, it would be of benefit and be sparked by private enterprise, and he declared that it was private enterprise "that made this country great."

The two will conclude their debates tonight at Bend.

Lawsuit Charges Blacklist by Union

Portland—(U.P.)—A \$153,000 damage suit has been filed in Federal Court here by a Vancouver, Wash., man who claims the International Association of Heat and Insulators and Asbestos Workers prevented him from working at his trade.

The suit was filed by Michael J. Monaghan, who said he is a skilled mechanic in installing heat and frost insulating materials. A similar suit, filed by Charles D. Gurnsey, also of Vancouver, is pending.

Defendants were the union, its Portland local No. 36, and the fiberglass Engineering and Supply Company.

Both men claim the union has a monopoly in the field, and that the company aided the monopoly by discharging them immediately after the plaintiffs were hired in 1953. Monaghan and Gurnsey also claim the union "blacklisted" them and prevented them from working.

NEWSPAPER SOLD
Chester, Pa.—(U.P.)—The Chester Times, 79-year-old daily afternoon paper with a circulation of 38,000, has been sold to Publisher Robert S. Howard, it was announced today.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 8:30 previous day.

Audience Gets Outline Of Disputed Measure

The following outline of Congressman Sam Coon's John Day dam bill, subject of the debate in Klamath Falls last night between Congressman Coon and Senator Richard L. Neuberger, was distributed to the audience prior to the debate.

The event was sponsored by the Modoc Toastmaster's club, and Bob Perkins of that club was toastmaster.

The Project

The John Day dam is a navigation, flood control and irrigation project with an initial installed capacity of 1,105,000 kilowatts. The damsite is located on the main stem of the Columbia river near the mouth of the John Day river some 25 miles upstream from the site of The Dalles dam.

Five years ago Congress authorized the Army engineers to construct the John Day dam. Up to this year, however, Congress has not appropriated any funds to start building the multi-purpose project.

Estimated cost of building the John Day dam is \$310,000,000. This estimate is based on the cost of building comparable projects such as The Dalles and other Columbia river dams.

The dam will fill in the last gap on the main stem of the Columbia river, thus providing slack water navigation from Bonneville dam to the Pasco-

Kennewick area in eastern Washington.

Terms of the Bill

Congressman Coon's bill calls for the government: 1. To design the dam; 2. To build the dam; 3. To operate the dam; 4. To operate the dam; 5. To integrate

Portland-Vancouver Off Critical List

Salem—(U.P.)—The State Unemployment Commission said today that the Portland-Vancouver area has been removed from the list if critical unemployment areas eligible for special treatment in defense contracts.

The four-county area, including Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties in Oregon and Clark county in Washington, has been reclassified from Class D to Class C among American cities with unemployment problems.

In its Class D position, the Portland area won a contract for ship conversion that will give employment to about 1000 persons.

The commission has reported labor shortages in many parts of the state with a labor surplus at its lowest level in three years, 15,900. Non-farm workers in the Portland area now total 248,000, compared with 229,000 last winter, the commission reported.

the power in the Northwest Power pool.

The bulk of the estimated cost, \$273,000,000, is allocated to power. The remaining \$37,000,000 is allocated to general benefit features of the dam such as the navigation lock. In addition to paying in advance for the cost of power facilities, the local interests are to pay for the following:

1. Their proportionate share of operating and maintaining the power facilities and the portion of the dam allocating power;
2. Their proportionate share of building, operating and maintaining fish-passing facilities;
3. Any cost of transmitting power over federally-owned transmission lines;
4. Any charges for upstream and downstream power benefits as determined by the Federal Power commission.

The Federal Power commission shall decide what local interests who apply shall have a share in building the dam and

Adenauer Confined With Feverish Cold

Bonn, Germany—(U.P.)—Chancellor Konrad Adenauer is confined to bed with a feverish cold, a Bonn government spokesman announced today.

The spokesman said the 79-year-old Chancellor was forced to cancel all scheduled appointments for the next few days.

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