

Senator Morse Tells Effects for Oregon From Legislative Action of 84th Congress

Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles, written by members of Oregon's congressional delegation, on their views of the 84th Congress. They are writing as guest columnists for Robert A. Smith, the Mail Tribune's Washington correspondent.

By WAYNE MORSE
Senior Senator from Oregon
Eugene—From the point of view of what the 84th Congress meant to Oregon. Decreasing farm income and rising costs are among our most pressing problems, not only for farmers and ranchers, but their communities as well. The first farm bill passed by Congress, but vetoed by the President was a good bill. The two-price wheat amendment which I sponsored was put in the bill by the Senate. It was one of the provisions which the President said made it a bad bill, although it would have boosted wheat growers' income without burden to the consumer, helped move surpluses abroad at competitive prices and provided feed wheat for poultry and livestock producers at lower prices. It was first proposed by Charles McNary as a basic principle of the McNary-Haugen bill.

Amendment Adopted
My amendment to eliminate the requirement for state payments for feed and seed to disaster areas was adopted and was in the vetoed bill. A provision, sought by cattlemen, to give incentives for marketing underweight cows and calves to reduce production, was narrowly defeated. In each instance, mostly Republicans voted against farm-family income improvements and mostly Democrats voted for them.

Last year, upon the recommendations of Oregon cherry growers, I succeeded in adding to the Reciprocal Trade bill the right to a hearing on damage to our cherry producers caused by imports. That Senate provision was dropped in conference—the only major section to be eliminated—because of Administration opposition.

Oregon. As a result, Oregon will receive badly needed flood control, power and navigation from new projects such as John Day Dam, Cougar Dam, Green Peter Dam, Hills Creek Dam, Holley Dam, the deepening of the mouth of the Columbia, flood control aid to several Columbia river drainage districts and harbor projects at Coos Bay, Tillamook, Brookings and Warrenton. The Senate took the lead to provide the first construction funds and substantial increases in planning funds on these projects. All of the projects for dams are wholly federal and do not involve a partnership give-away.

Other Authorizations
This year authorizations were enacted for Yaquina Bay, Crooked River Irrigation and the Wapinitia Irrigation projects. Unfortunately, the President's veto of the Rivers and Harbors Act will make it necessary for us to carry on the fight for Yaquina Bay authorization in the next session of Congress. I am confident we will win, particularly with a new administration.

Water Pollution Funds Allocated

Salem—(U.P.)—The federal government has allocated two-thirds of a million dollars to Oregon for water pollution control. Gov. Elmo Smith reported today.

In a letter to the governor, the secretary of health, education and welfare said \$647,125 had been set aside for state water pollution control construction grants and an additional \$21,785 for assisting the state water pollution control program.

Gov. Smith said the allocation should step up Oregon's program for cleaning up streams by providing aid to cities, counties or sanitary districts which are either planning new sewage treatment works or expansion of present systems.

Our great loss, irreparable if not reversed by the courts so that it can be rectified in the next Congress, was the defeat of the high Hells Canyon Dam. Only two Republican senators withstood White House pressure to vote against the bill and 43 fell into line to oppose maximum development of the greatest remaining multipurpose damsite in the country and in favor of permanent waste of the full power, flood control, navigation, irrigation and recreation potential of the deepest gorge in America. Especially in view of the narrow brush with flood disaster that we had this spring, this Administration act in behalf of the private utilities and against the public interest was callous partisanship.

Progress for both sound conservation and lumbering were achieved in this Congress. A large scale access road program which Neuberger and I fought for was enacted as part of the federal aid highway program. It means more timber on a sound and competitive basis and better cutting practices. Greater attention was given to recreation and wildlife in our national forests and more personnel to help in the marketing of federal timber, all of which I advocated. The executive agencies held back on these programs and Congress gave the needed nudges and funds.

Help to Low-Paid Workers
Congress did provide some help to raise purchasing power and relieve distress of low-paid workers. Over Administration protests, it boosted the minimum wage to \$1 an hour. This is important to our high wage rate state to discourage competition from low-wage states.

Also over Administration roadblocks two new sound principles were written into the Social Security law—payment for disability and a lowered retirement age for women. Senator Neuberger blazed the trail on the age reduction for women and both of us worked closely with the Democratic leadership to put

these key amendments over in the face of White House Republican leadership objections.

This Congress left unfinished work as every Congress does. But none distressed me more than the inability to enact federal aid to education. The Administration must accept responsibility for failure to push for federal aid as it did push for the defeat of Hells Canyon just a few days later. And the Republicans in Congress must bear the responsibility for the totally inconsistent position taken which insured defeat of the Democratic-backed program.

Much Good Legislation
This is part of the story of the 84th Democratic Congress. Considering its slight Democratic majority and the all but vanished liberals in the Republican ranks in Congress, the last two years have produced much good legislation and seen some bad bills blocked.

What the 85th Congress will do will depend primarily on the November election. Will the voters sanction the Administration's policy of special privilege for a few, at the expense of the many, or will they vote to increase the Democratic majority in Congress so that a better job in passing general welfare legislation can be done in the 85th Congress? Will they vote to continue a White House Administration by big business or will they vote to elect a Democratic President who will place the business of governing first?

The campaign will draw the issues, and I am willing to place my confidence in the voters.

Legion Schedules District Meeting

A district meeting of American Legion posts in this area will be held at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20, in the Central Point Legion hall, according to Fred Dayton of Grants Pass, district commander.

Changes in plans and policies of the department of Oregon of the Legion will be explained, and Dayton encouraged all Legionnaires to attend.

Three Board Members Named to YMCA Group

Three new board members were elected at a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Medford YMCA.

They are Mrs. Scott Wicksham, Robert Taylor and John Dellenback. Dr. G. A. Dierdorf is president of the YMCA here.

Read and Use Classified Ads

Motor Vehicle Names Head of Management

Salem—(U.P.)—James E. Keys, former Salem accountant and recently comptroller for the Virgin Islands Corporation, was named head of the management division of the Department of Motor Vehicles yesterday.

Keys, 52, returned to Salem a few months ago after spending a year in the Virgin Islands post. From 1953 to 1955 he served as executive director of the National Society of Public Accountants in Washington, D.C.

Nicosia, Cyprus—(U.P.)—The Greek Cypriot underground organization EOKA has called for a military truce with Britain in strife torn Cyprus.

LABOR LOST
Milford, Conn.—(U.P.)—Police believe the thief who took two parking meters from in front of a downtown tavern was disappointed. The meters contained no money.

STOP SIGN GOES
Whitman, Mass.—(U.P.)—A 180-pound police traffic box recently was stolen from the center of the town square.

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