

Private Construction of John Day Dam Said Dropped by Administration

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Washington — The Eisenhower administration has dropped further consideration of having the John Day dam on the Columbia river built by private power companies.

"That plan is as dead as a dodo bird," according to a high official who is one of President Eisenhower's closest advisers.

California Traffic Kills 3,669 in Year

San Francisco, Calif. — (U.P.) — An eight-year-old girl, killed crossing the street to buy some candy, Saturday became California's 3,669th traffic fatality of the year as highway slaughter in the state reached a new high.

The girl was Jean Dianne Delp, of San Diego, who was killed as she raced across a San Diego street clutching two nickels with which to buy sweets.

The previous record for traffic deaths in California was 3,664, set in 1946.

As the toll mounted throughout the state, figures showed that 22 persons had lost their lives in holiday traffic accidents since 6 p.m. Friday. This brought 1956's toll to 3,669.

Authorities had predicted 40 persons would be killed on the California highways during the four-day Christmas holiday. As it turned out, almost half that number died before the end of the first 24-hour period.

The California Highway Patrol considered the situation an emergency, cancelled all leaves and assigned every available man to patrol duty during the holiday.

In addition to the state's accidental deaths on the roads, two other persons have been killed accidentally by fire since 6 p.m. Friday.

Fresno Bank Holdup Suspect Under Arrest

Fresno, Calif. — (U.P.) — The FBI Saturday announced the arrest here of Vernon Leroy Brown, 28, who agents said would be charged with robbing the East Fresno branch of the Bank of America of \$1500 cash Dec. 14.

The announcement was made by John F. Malone, agent in charge of the Los Angeles FBI office.

Brown was arrested by FBI agents and detectives of the Fresno police department. Agents said he was unarmed and that no gun had been seen during the robbery.

The FBI said Brown would be arraigned before U. S. Commissioner here, probably the day after Christmas.

Stanford Medical Center Fund Drive Aides Named

Stanford, Calif. — (U.P.) — W. P. Fuller III, general chairman of the Stanford Medical Center Fund Drive, Saturday named three aides in the effort to raise \$6 million in the first stage of a campaign to finance the center.

They were Edmund W. Littlefield, executive vice president of the Utah Construction company, corporate gifts chairman; Jack King Hooton, Pacific Gas and Electric company vice president, vice chairman; and Richard E. Guggenheim, attorney, chairman of the personal gifts committee.

Klickitat (Wash.) PUD to build the 1,105,000 KW project which is just upriver from The Dalles dam.

Administration officials feel that the scheme advanced by

three power companies—Pacific Power and Light, Washington Water Power and Portland General Electric companies — has been for all practical purposes repudiated at the polls.

This is a reference to the election defeats of the men who sponsored bills in Congress in recent years to implement this proposal — Rep. Sam Con (R-Ore.) and Sen. Guy Cordon (R-

Ore.), as well as Douglas McKay, former secretary of Interior who backed the power company idea.

No Sponsors in Congress
The practical consideration is

that there is no one left in Congress to sponsor necessary legislation that would implement the utility scheme, for all of the key members of Congress from both Oregon and Washington have expressed preference for federal construction of the John Day project.

In recent months, however, officials of Klickitat PUD have discussed with the administration the feasibility of some scheme for their building the dam, along the lines followed by Grant County PUD in its successful undertaking of the Priest Rapids project farther upriver and the Chelan County PUD at Rocky Reach near Wenatchee.

Would Fit Power Policy
The administration officials who have looked at this proposal are favorably impressed with it, for they feel it would fit in with the power policy under which local utilities are en-

couraged to provide their own power sources.

The Corps of Engineers is now completing planning of the John Day dam, so it could be started during the coming year — if someone gets a go-ahead to start.

Northwestern Democrats in Congress are determined to have it built by the federal government, which would mean Congress would have to appropriate the estimated \$310 million it would cost. Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) recently issued a year-end statement in which he listed "construction of John Day dam by the federal government at the fastest possible rate" as the No. 1 item under the heading of immediate measures to relieve the power situation.

Would End Long Battle
If the administration comes out for federal construction, the will doubtless end the long battle over who it should be built by — and it would represent a victory for the Democrats who have opposed the "partnership" power policy. If the administration favors construction by a PUD, this may split the Democrats along state lines — for Washington state lawmakers have been favorable to other PUD plans for dam building and probably would support this one; but Oregon Democrats, especially Morse, have opposed Washington state PUD proposals and would probably not favor this one.

The president's budget message in January will probably hold the clue as to which way the matter will go.

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Back Stairs: No Christmas Office Party

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press White House Writer
Washington — (U.P.) — Back stairs at the White House:

There will be no Christmas office parties around the White House on this Christmas Eve if President Eisenhower or Sherman Adams, the assistant to the President, know anything about it.

The President and Adams feel very strongly against office partying, especially at Christmas time. If a member of the staff wants to hoist a yuletide cup during business hours today, he will adjourn to one of the neighborhood bars — if he knows what's good for him.

The chief executive is no blue-nose and serves drinks himself in the residential quarters of the White House. But ever since he's been in office he has frowned on so-called office parties, no matter how festive or appropriate the occasion.

Although this might seem restrictive to some, it works out rather well in the long run because it gets most of the staff members home early on Christmas Eve and in good shape, much to the delight of their families.

A Christmas Eve drink was the norm rather than the exception in White House offices during some past administrations, but the high command of the Eisenhower administration let it be known in Christmas, 1953, their first Christmas in office, that they thought the executive offices were not the proper location for office parties.

Probably on no previous Christmas has the White House been so inundated by gifts for the President and Mrs. Eisenhower. The offices of some members of the President's staff who have charge of incoming gifts look more like gift bazaars than working areas.

Some of the gifts pose genuine problems of storage and disposal. For instance, what does one do with an 800-pound fruit cake. A mammoth cake of this weight arrived Friday from the Niagara Falls, N.Y., Young Men's Republican Club.

Obviously too large to go into the White House freezer, this cake, or at least a portion of it, will end up in a nearby hospital or children's institution.

Or take the six foot candy cane from the Pittsburgh Boys Club. This was too large, even if the four Eisenhower grandchildren all tried to chew on it at once. Obviously the only thing that can be done with such a candy cane is have it on display around the Christmas tree, then break it up in small pieces for more leisurely consumption.

The Eisenhower grandchildren also are targets for hundreds of gifts. The flow of toys has been so heavy that it was understood that the President and his wife were considering giving the children clothing instead of playthings of which they have more than enough.

Mickey Cohen Faces Jury Over Fight

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Ex-gambler Mickey Cohen faces a grand jury investigation of an alleged fist-swinging incident with a soda fountain manager last Tuesday.

The jury Friday was ordered to conduct a full hearing Dec. 27 after police intelligence officers presented evidence to the criminal complaints committee.

Henry Maltman, manager of the fountain at Schwab's pharmacy, told police earlier he did not wish to prosecute.

Cohen said he went to the drug store to ask about \$500 he said he loaned Maltman several months ago, police reported.

Cohen, who now runs a flower shop, was released from a federal prison in 1955 after serving time for income tax evasion.

Maj. John E. Eisenhower, the President's son, and his wife, Barbara, will bring the grandchildren from their home at Fort Belvoir, Va., to the White House only for Christmas afternoon.

On The Side

By E. V. Durling
(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

The great and brilliant British Prime Minister, William Pitt, the younger, originated the income tax. So I note it said. That's wrong, citizens of the Republic of Florence in the middle ages were subject to income tax. Still in a state of preservation are income tax returns made by Florentines in the 15th century.

Briefly
The distinction of being descended from somebody who came to this country on the Mayflower is shared by a great many people, for example, John Alden had 14 children. He alone has over 10,000 descendants. . . . Is your wife clever at making popovers? If so, you are a lucky fellow. To go with coffee at breakfast, my choice, is as follows in order named: popovers, raisin buns, corn muffins, . . . parker house rolls, brioches. . . .

Between Drinks
How long was the time between drinks which inspired that complaint of the governor of South Carolina to the Governor of North Carolina? Anyway, an expert on the subject says the time between drinks should be 30 minutes. Drinking at shorter intervals will bring on inebriation and possibly cause the drinker to do or say something he will be sorry for in the dark gray dawn of the morning after.

Asides
People having colds should be compelled by health department regulations to wear masks in public. The common cold is a contagious disease and should be subjected to regulation. . . . A man named Iccolo Miccolo once played the piccolo in the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

Sidelights
The song titled "You Made Me Love You," written 43 years ago is enjoying a sensational revival. Somebody should revise the lovely ballad of the year-year titled "Can't You Hear Me Callin', Caroline?" How right that man was who said all those wishing to make a success of marriage should learn how to disagree without being disagreeable.

Family Dog
The question of the custody of the family dog continues to come up in divorce cases. In one case I recall the judge awarded the family dog, a Springer Spaniel, to the husband. Said his honor: "A Springer Spaniel is a man's dog. If it had been a Dachshund or a Pekinese I would have awarded it to the wife."

What kind of a dog have you at your house?

Queries from clients. Q. In

Arab-Israel Border Open To Pilgrims

Jerusalem, Israeli Sector — (U.P.) — The Christmas spirit has conquered Arab-Israeli enmity. The sealed Israeli-Jordan border which divides the Arab section of old Jerusalem from the Israeli-controlled new city will be opened this week for Christian pilgrimages to Bethlehem.

There had been fear that the tension and the distrust which have brought Israeli-Arab relations to an all-time low might forbid the border to be opened.

But now, several thousand Christians are expected to gather from all over Israel Tuesday morning to make the crossing into Jordan.

Jordan permits such traffic only at Christmas and Easter.

Otto John Gets Four Year Term

Karlsruhe, Germany — (U.P.) — The West German Supreme Court found Otto John guilty Saturday of treasonable activities and sentenced the former intelligence chief to four years in prison. The sentence was twice as severe as the state had demanded.

The five justices of West Germany's highest court said they are convinced John joined the communists voluntarily in 1954 and returned to the West 17 months later only because the Reds did not give him "the respect he felt was his due."

They rejected John's story that he was drugged and kidnapped by a "parlor bolshevik" physician who fled with him to Red Berlin.

The high court also rejected prosecutor Max Guede's argument that John was "not a traitor but a weakling" who should be punished only for the general offense of "making anti-western propaganda."

John admitted during his trial that he made statements that were false. He said he saw no harm in betraying "small" state secrets, to protect his life.

Interior Minister Gerhard Schroeder sharply rejected this argument.

"State secrets must be protected to the last gasp," he said. "That goes for civil officials as well as soldiers."

Furniture Market Will Attract 45,000

Chicago — (U.P.) — The International Home Furnishing Market, which opens Jan. 7, will attract 45,000 buyers and sellers, a near record, Lawrence H. Whiting, president of the American Furniture Mart, said today.

Firm prices are expected to prevail at the market, despite the rise of material and labor costs.

"The 1957 winter market," Whiting declared, "not only marks the close of the furniture industry's greatest year, but also signifies a continuation of this prosperous trend through at least the first half of 1947."

The Danish modern influence in style should continue in popularity, along with French and Italian provincial. Manufacturers will show correlated ensembles with many more pieces in the new lines.

One indication of increased interest is that Canadian buyer registration alone is up 63 per cent over last year. Domestic registrations are also ahead of last year, Whiting reported.

Chinook Salmon Catch Highest Since 1922

Portland — (U.P.) — Oregon troll fishermen took more than four million pounds of Chinook salmon on this past season, the highest recorded since 1922, according to H. S. Smith, State Fish Commission Auditor.

The Chinook troll take record was achieved despite a 30-day delay in opening the season last spring. Chinook trolling off the Columbia river was considered only fair this year, but landings at other Oregon coastal areas were up considerably from previous years, Smith said.

Smith reported that silver salmon landings by trollers at Oregon ports were good but not exceptional at three million pounds.

And a prosperous NEW YEAR to all our friends and patrons!

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