

Federal Right To Buy Klamath Timber Said Already on Books

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington—There is a federal law already on the books which the timber of the Klamath Indian reservation could be purchased by the government for inclusion in the national forest reserve. And one of its chief sponsors was an illustrious Oregon senator, Charles McNary, who contributed much to the early national conservation movement.

Nevertheless, the prospect, as seen here in the nation's capital, of the federal government laying out over \$100,000,000 for the pine forests of the Klamath reservation appears to all knowledgeable observers here as remote in the extreme.

Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton personally favors the idea and is extremely interested in finding a way of preventing the valuable forests from being clear cut by private interests, in case the Klamath termination act runs its course toward such a disastrous end. Oregon's congressional delegation is united in favoring federal purchase as a solution, which gives the idea bipartisan support.

Counter To Trend

But the idea runs counter to the whole philosophical trend in Washington these days. The administration is straining to find new ways of relieving the federal government of such responsibilities, and resisting even

more strongly the pressures in favor of acquiring added responsibilities.

The McNary act, passed in 1924, followed an earlier 1911 act, called the Weeks law, by which the national forest system was expanded in the eastern states through purchase of private timber. The budget for these purchases during the New Deal era sometimes hit \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 a year. It was a big program.

Today the budget for such acquisitions is below \$100,000 a year because, as one official explained it, "it is the policy of the administration not to acquire public lands."

The McNary act wasn't limited to the eastern states, for the forest land in the Marys Peak area near Corvallis was added to Siuslaw national forest under this same act.

Confident of Legality

But it would be an unusually extensive purchase to handle under this act if it were applied to the Klamath situation. Nevertheless officials are confident it would be perfectly legal, providing Congress appropriated the purchase of funds.

Outside this law, Congress has never in the memory of veteran forestry officials here ever authorized a big purchase of privately owned timber for the national forest reserve. Several years ago there was a case in point which illustrates congressional reluctance to add to national holdings. That was the Aztec Land and Cattle Co. case in Arizona, where 98,000 acres of checkerboarded railroad land grants were at issue.

A bill to have the government

buy the land at no more than \$7,409,263 passed the Senate in 1955 but stalled in the more frugal House. The forestland, intermingled with national forestland, was eventually sold to Southwest Lumber Mills, largest operator in that area, and the timber is now being cut.

Reasons for Skepticism

In a word, there is good reason for the expressed skepticism of Sen. Richard L. Neuberger that his bill providing for federal purchase stands slight chance of passage. If it should pass, it would be the first of its kind ever to do so.

For this reason some officials are wondering whether there is any chance of the state, with its treasury surplus, adopting Neuberger's proposal for Oregon itself taking over the Klamath timber to protect it for sustained yields.

They are saying privately that it looks like, unless the state acts, the only way to assure protection of the pine forests would be to repeal the Klamath termination act, which would bring the tribe around full circle in its difficult quest for both freedom and economic security.

REACHES HIGH COURT

Raleigh, N. C. — The case of seven Negroes, each fined \$25 and court costs for trespassing at a racially segregated ice cream parlor in Durham, N.C., has reached the state Supreme Court. The Negroes, one a Methodist minister, were arrested June 23 when they refused to leave a section of the Royal Ice Cream Co. reserved for whites.

DESIGNER'S MOTHER DIES

Joigny, France — Pierre Balmain, 63, mother of Paris fashion designer Pierre Balmain, was killed in an auto accident here today.

Damages of \$12,500 Sought From Fall

Lowell Cannon, 823 Siskiyou blvd., Ashland, has filed suit in circuit court asking \$12,500 damages against Harold J. Straus and Edward G. Taylor, operators of Tally Ho restaurant.

According to the complaint Cannon has been "deprived of the society, comfort, and companionship" of his wife, Jane, since she slipped and fell Nov. 19, 1955, on a floor at the Tally Ho restaurant.

Jane Cannon is reported to have suffered fractures and bruises from the fall and was hospitalized in a critical condition according to the complaint. Cannon is represented by the law firm of Roberts, Branchfield and Kellington in Medford.

Walla Walla Convicts Foiled in Escape Try

Walla Walla — Six prisoners were placed in maximum security at the state penitentiary here Saturday following an attempted break-out through a tunnel.

Warden Bob Rhay said the men were caught digging between wing eight of the prison and the outside wall. The escape route was in the same vicinity where 10 inmates escaped two years ago.

The tunnel had been dug about 10 feet but the men still were several yards away from freedom. They were discovered by a shakedown crew of guards which has been making regular inspections of the grounds since work began on a new building at the prison.

Sawdust

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Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Chapel Hill, N.C. — A. F. Jenzano, manager of the University of North Carolina Planetarium, in suggesting that if Russia has launched a rocket to reach the moon by Nov. 7 it might have been to take advantage of a lunar eclipse scheduled for Asia that day: "The moon's surface would be visible but dark, and this would offer the most ideal condition for a nuclear explosion or hydrogen flare designed for viewing from earth."

San Francisco — Airlines Pilot W. K. Owen, in describing what may have been the first look at Sputnik II in North America by his plane crew: "The speed and straight line of flight ruled out the possibility of a meteor."

New York — Dr. L. Royal Christensen, New York University-Bellevue Hospital Medical Center research expert, in defending use of an animal in the Soviet satellite: "Probably many more animals are used in testing products to make sure they are safe and potent than for anything else."

Cincinnati, Ohio — Dr. George Barbour, dean of the Arts and Sciences college at the University of Cincinnati, in discounting the practicability of developing a "huge" uranium find in Ohio and surrounding states reported by a retired engineer: "It is like getting gold from sea water, and no man in his right senses would try it."

Washington — Sen. John L. McClellan of the Senate Rackets committee, after hearing a group of small businessmen from Flint, Mich., testify that their labor troubles with the Teamsters union stopped after they made payments to an aide of labor consultant Nathan F. Shefferman: "It seems to me we are developing here a pattern of what amounts to a pay-off to union officials."

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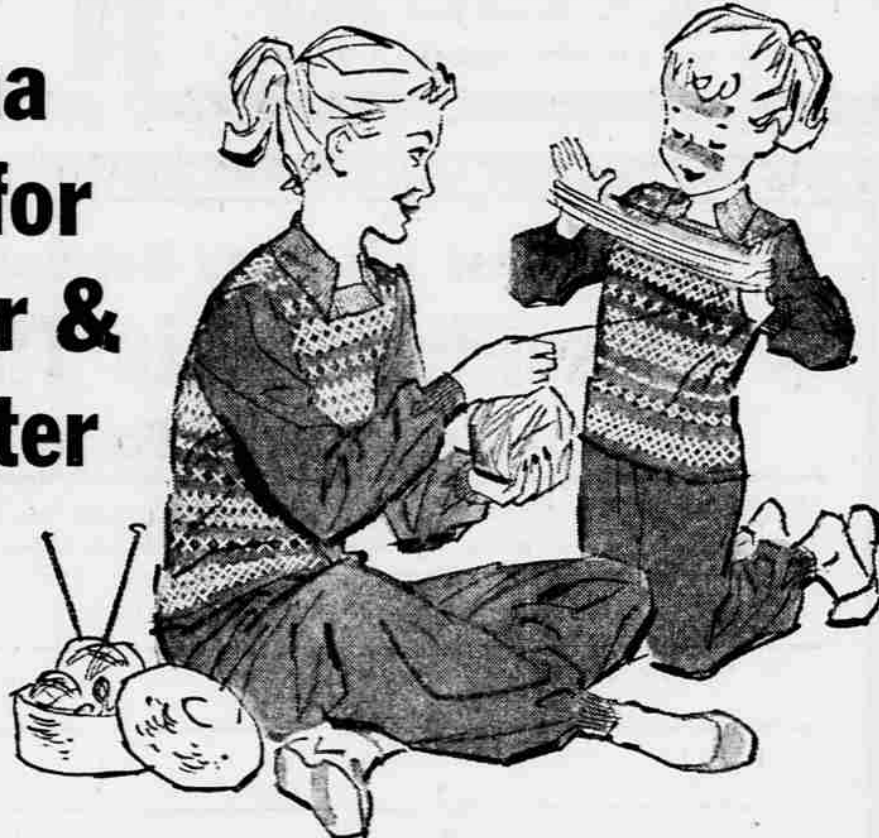
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