

Idaho Power Seeking Bonneville Aid in Securing Federal Subsidy

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Washington — Idaho Power Co., with the help of the Eisenhower administration, has demonstrated a remarkable knack for supplying ammunition to the public power-minded forces that have long fought for a high Hells Canyon dam in the Snake river where the company is now building two smaller projects.



Last spring, when it looked like the Hells Canyon backers were finally licked in their long effort to get Congress to enact their high dam bill, the administration gave Idaho Power a big tax write-off which the utility had sought. It amounted to a hefty subsidy for the power company, and would have cost the government \$83,500,000.

As a result of public indignation, the bill suddenly gained fresh support and passed the Senate. Idaho Power, bowing to the pressure of these events, threw back the tax privileges, and the bill bogged down once again, this time in the House Interior Committee where it now rests.

Seeks Bonneville Aid

Now it comes to light that Idaho Power has been trying to get Bonneville Power Administration to go along with a draft contract which would provide the utility with a substantial government subsidy for those private dams which it has long claimed would be built "without cost to the taxpayers."

The proposed contract would

implement the useful idea of exchanging power between the Idaho company system, which needs more kilowatts in the summer for irrigation pumping in southern Idaho; and the Bonneville system, supplied by federal dams, which needs more energy in the winter when demands slacken in Idaho. But the kicker, according to those who have the lengthy document, is that it would require Bonneville to give four kilowatt-hours for every one KWH supplied by the utility.

Unofficial estimates put the cost of the subsidy at about \$8,000,000 annually, which over the 50-year life of the dam would be worth \$400,000,000, not counting interest. That is well over the total cost of the high Hells Canyon dam, and over twice the investment Idaho Power is making in the Snake River at Hells Canyon.

Issue Essentially Same

The issue here, as seen by Northwest senators, is essentially the same as the one raised by the tax write-off: how can the power company ask for a federal subsidy after fighting the high dam with the argument that, even though the smaller private dams would be less beneficial, they would be built "at no cost to the taxpayer?" The principal reason advanced by the Eisenhower administration, when it supported the utility and opposed the federal high dam, was that the private dams would not cost the government any money.

The date of the draft contract is Jan. 29, 1957, which means that it has been under consideration by Bonneville officials over nine months. Reported many Bonneville officials are unhappy with the terms of the

proposed contract, believing Idaho Power should get only what it gives in any mutual power exchange. But for reasons that have been unexplained, the contract has not been rejected.

Renewed Campaign Planning

Backers of a high Hells Canyon dam, with this latest subsidy demand as a new weapon of attack, are now planning a renewed campaign when Congress opens in six weeks in hopes of getting House approval of the Hells Canyon authorization bill. They are counting on public indignation over Idaho Power's persistent efforts to get federal subsidization after promising to

do the job entirely at private expense.

The biggest factor weighing against the Hells Canyon backers and in favor of the company is the physical fact of Brownlee dam's progressive rise from the riverbed of the Snake at a cost of millions to the company. It is scheduled to generate its initial energy in another year. If Congress should enact the high dam bill, the government would be liable for reimbursing the company its expense to that date—a cost which would be tacked onto the full cost of building high Hells Canyon.

The more probable outcome, economy-mindedness being as strong as it is in Washington these days, is that the administration will dissipate this latest issue by rejecting the subsidy demand, now that public attention is focused on it.

The Hollywood Scene

By VERNON SCOTT
United Press Writer

Editor's note: Vernon Scott is on vacation. Today's columnist is Robert Cummings—the man with the prettiest girls in television on his show.

By ROBERT CUMMINGS Written for United Press

Hollywood—Now that I have this chance to do a great column, I'll answer a question that has been asked me by many people many times.

Is beauty of face and figure enough for a young girl to succeed in show business today?

No, it is not. A pretty girl must have not only appeal in the eternally pertinent definition of sex appeal, but today she must have a reasonably high IQ. Without it, her chances for attention and opportunity in theatrical attainments are considerably lessened.

Train Baby Star

In previous years, when the movie studios resigned alone in supplying fare for the entertainment appetites, it was custom to develop, train and nurture the baby star with patience and repetition. Considerable time and lots of money were spent to preen the movie queen.

If she didn't walk through a door just right and it was necessary to film the action in 20, 30, sometimes 50 takes, it was ac-

cepted as a matter of course by all—except possibly the producer—the man with the money in the front office living in hope and dying in despair.

In this era of electronic speed, television production just doesn't provide the time to shoot over and over because a player can't be alert and has to be coached again and again to do a scene right. This doesn't mean that a performer doesn't dare "blow a take" once in a while.

Actors Need Know-How

But, the same "bit" or "action" may be shot from several angles which is time-consuming, and that's exactly why production can't hold still for consistent errors in performances. Young players today have to develop know-how quickly and easily for the sake of speed and a budget far below motion picture appropriation.

Since time immemorial, a pretty girl has been a treat to the eye, but acceptance of the "beautiful" but dumb" is no more.

You won't find the simpering beauty with the vacant, blue-eyed baby stare and the pouty, bee-stung lips. She went out with rolled stockings and the marathon dance.

No, Betty Boop, doesn't work here anymore.

Funds Overdrawn By Legislators

Salem — The special session of the Oregon Legislature has overdrawn its appropriation according to Sen. Alfred Corbett, Portland Democrat and co-chairman of the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

Sen. Corbett told the Senate Monday that the secretary of state's office had given him a statement showing that the cost of a 17 day session (today is the 16th day) would be \$91,504.

As a result of this information, Corbett said, the chief clerk of the Ways and Means Committee and another clerk had been relieved of their duties as a means of saving money.

An appropriation of \$75,000 to cover costs of the special session has been passed. It is probable that a supplementary appropriation will have to be made to cover the additional costs.

BOARD CHAIRMAN DIES

New York — Erle Victor Daveler, 71, chairman of the board of Mesabi Iron Co. and a vice-president and director of the American Zinc lead smelting Co., died Monday at his home.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Welch, W. Va.—Former President Truman, in saying that 100 per cent Americanism preached by the American Legion and other veterans groups must include emphasis on freedom of speech: "True Americanism is being undermined by some people in this country who are loudly complaining that they are its first defenders."

Washington—Gov. Joe Foss of South Dakota, in saying he was confident the United States would recover "lost ground" in the missile race:

"Thank God it was the Sputnik and Muttnik rather than another Pearl Harbor that brought the American people out of their lethargy."

Chicago—Willi Ley, German-born rocket expert, in saying a manned U.S. space station would establish space superiority until another nation developed a similar satellite to create a balance of power:

"A balance of power is a fine substitute for good will."

New York—Aneuria Bevan, foreign policy spokesman for the British Labor party, in saying he was astounded at the American reaction to the Sputniks:

"You ought not to be too impressed. Two Sputniks do not a technical summer make."

Toledo, Ohio—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, in saying the compulsory Soviet educational system challenges the American system:

"The question is whether we can meet this challenge under our system of free choice."

New Orleans—Gov. Orval Faubus, in comparing treatment given the bonus marchers to the sending of federal troops to Little Rock:

"No patience or tolerance was exercised then and none was exercised at Little Rock by another Republican administration. That (Hoover) administration was voted out of office just as this one will be at the first opportunity."



THEY'RE CATCHING ON, BUT THEY CAN'T CATCH UP." That's how lots of people feel about the "new 1958" cars that are trying to match the Dodge Swept-Wing look. These other cars have been lowered some, but still seem high and boxy by comparison. A few are "catching on" to fins, but they're years from

"catching up." And the air suspension offered by some cars (at well over \$100 extra) can't compare with the sway-free, dip-free ride of Dodge Torsion-Aire (standard equipment on all models). So on your way home from someone else's new car showing, stop in and compare it with Swept-Wing 58 by Dodge. You'll see what we mean.

See Swept-Wing 58 by Dodge at Parsons Motors, 315 E. 5th St., Medford, Oregon

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