

## Porter Plans to Recommend Funds For Several Northwest Projects

Washington, D.C. — Representative Charles O. Porter (D-Ore.) has announced figures which he intends to recommend to Congress as the "minimum" which should be appropriated for the fiscal year beginning next July 1 for civil works projects in the 4th district. The total of the recommended amounts for projects and surveys under the supervision of the Army corps of engineers will exceed \$23,000,000.

Largest single appropriation which Congressman Porter will recommend in hearings before the House and Senate Appropriations committees is \$11,500,000 to continue construction on Hills Creek dam, on the Middle fork of the Willamette river near Oakridge. The next largest amount is \$7,000,000 for further construction work on Cougar dam, on the South fork of the McKenzie river about 50 miles east of Eugene.

Porter said the first construction money is scheduled for the Green Peter dam project on the South Santiam river in Linn county. "The corps of engineers has informed me that it can use \$2,000,000 on this project during fiscal year 1959, and I intend to press for the full amount regardless of what figure the Administration comes up with in the President's budget message," he said.

### Green Peter Project

Of the \$2,000,000 to be recommended for the Green Peter project, \$310,000 will be used by the engineers to complete "pre-construction planning" and the remainder will initiate construction of the \$58,400,000 job, which could be completed in six years from next July 1 if the full amount recommended is appropriated. The "construction" money included in Porter's figure would be expended mainly for Federal acquisition of land required for the dam site and reservoir area, plus some road-relocation work made necessary by the project.

"There has been a lot of talk lately," Porter said, "about a probable 'no-new-starts' policy by the Administration next year. If such a policy is announced by the President or becomes obvious through failure of the Administration to request construction funds for previously unstarted projects, it will be a terrible blow for the 4th district. Such a policy would obstruct the orderly development of the Willamette Basin and other major flood control programs as well as important port development projects in southwestern Oregon."

Porter said he "will stand behind the figures" announced "regardless of any arbitrary policy which may be formulated by the Administration."

### Confirm Amounts

"In each case," he said, "the engineers have confirmed that the amounts I am recommending are the amounts which can actually be used on the projects to move them along at an economical rate during the upcoming fiscal year."

However, the assistant chief of engineers for civil works, Brig. Gen. J. L. Person, also told Porter that the figures "may require revision when considered in relation to the total budgetary requirements for all projects in our civil works program and to the budgetary requirements for all other Federal programs."

"This is standard Administration double-talk," Porter said. "It means that the figures which the President comes up with in his budget next month may be substantially less than the amounts which the Engineers feel they need for these important flood control and navigation projects."

### New Start Scheduled

The only other "new start" scheduled in the 4th Congressional district of Oregon during fiscal year 1959 is the Gold Beach Harbor improvement project at the mouth of the Rogue river. The engineers have confirmed that they will be ready to start construction on this project during the last half of next year and Porter will recommend an appropriation of

\$1,500,000. The total cost of the job is estimated at \$3,950,000 and it can be completed during fiscal year 1960 if it is started next year on schedule.

Another navigation project which will be recommended for an appropriation next year is the "Coos and Millicoma rivers" job near Coos Bay. This \$487,000 project has received no money so far, but Porter said he would recommend that the full amount required for preconstruction planning, \$19,000, be appropriated next year. The full amount of construction money could be appropriated in the following year to complete the project.

Other flood control projects which will be recommended for appropriations next year:

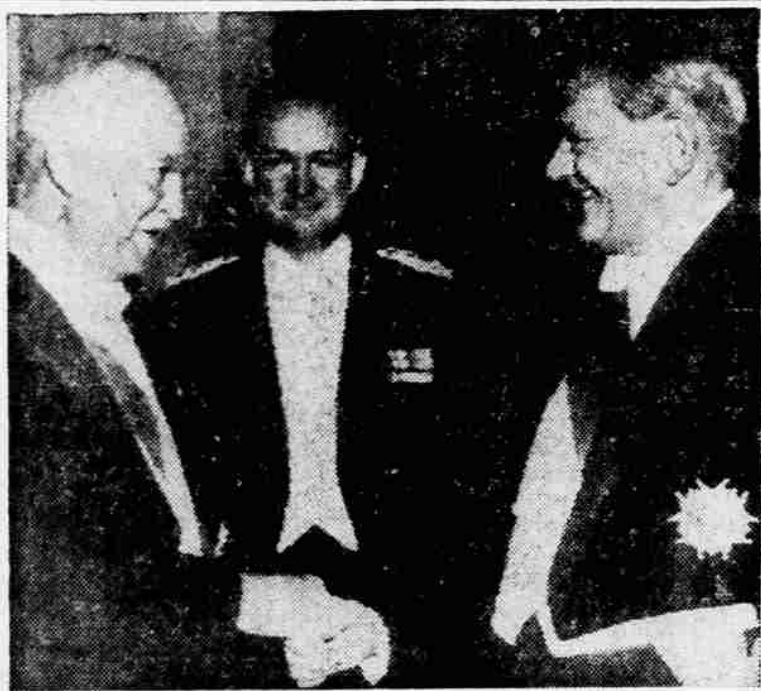
Blue river reservoir in Lane county, \$105,000 to continue preconstruction planning; Fall Creek reservoir in Lane county, \$150,000 to continue planning; Holley reservoir in Linn county, \$110,000 to complete preconstruction planning. Construction on the Holley project can begin in fiscal year 1960 and can be completed by 1964 if full appropriations are forthcoming.

**River Bank Protection**  
Porter said he would again recommend that \$800,000 be ap-

propriated for Willamette River Bank protection projects. For the current year, the engineers had said they could use the same amount for these local cooperation projects, but the Administration requested only \$300,000. Congressman Porter and Senators Morse and Neuberger pressed for an increase and managed to get the appropriation boosted to \$500,000 for fiscal year 1958.

Porter said he would also recommend the appropriation of the full amount required for preconstruction planning on two other major Willamette river channel projects, one amounting to \$86,000 and the other \$25,000.

The 4th district representative will also recommend nearly \$35,000 in appropriations for various flood control surveys and preliminary examinations now being conducted by the Army engineers in southwestern Oregon, including the Rogue, Coquille and Umpqua river investigations. He indicated that additional investigations may be recommended for Congressional appropriations later if review by his office shows work on other examinations or surveys to be feasible in the fiscal year beginning next July 1.



**AFTER DINNER CHAT**—President Eisenhower (left) and son, Maj. John Eisenhower, talk with French President Rene Coty (right) at a dinner at the Presidential Elysee Palace in Paris. The President spent a busy day that included visit to his old NATO command headquarters, and the second session of the NATO summit conference.

## Discount Competition Met By Larger Stores

By FRED DANZIG

**United Press Correspondent**  
New York — Leading department stores around the nation have changed their approach in battling discount house competition.

They've stopped emphasizing greater service and started cutting their own prices, according to a United Press survey.

In the past, department stores sought to steer shoppers away from discount houses by pointing up the department store's traditions, charge accounts, delivery services. But the discounts continued to grow because they were selling at lower prices.

It's different now.

**Price-Cut Started**  
In Los Angeles, retailers have started to cut prices on major appliances, watches, cameras and typewriters. The May Co., largest department store chain on the West Coast, recently adopted a price-cutting policy for its six stores.

The larger retailers in Chicago also select items the discount houses run as "leaders," lower the prices and advertise a sale. Example: Polk Brothers, a discount house, ran a sale on air conditioners. The next day, Carson, Pirie, Scott and Co., offered the same items at prices equal to, or at least competitive with, the Polk prices. Chicago's larger stores also are promoting their own brand name items

instead of nationally advertised stock, which, in many cases, involves fair trade laws.

**New York Included**

Major department stores in New York have begun enforcing a policy of meeting and, in some cases, beating discount prices on items such as phonograph records, refrigerators, film, large household appliances, toys, television sets, irons, toasters, watches, books and silverware.

Is this price-cutting policy effective?

The answer is yes, to a small degree. William Willensky, president of E. J. Korvette, Inc., the largest discount chain in the nation, estimates that the step-up in price competition cost his company about \$600,000 before taxes in the fiscal year ended Sept. 28.

### COLLECT DIVORCE DATA

Washington — The Public Health Service will begin to gather statistics on divorces and annulments Jan. 1 in the same comprehensive way it now collects information on marriages, births and deaths, it was announced Monday.

## Priest Declines To Marry Novelist

Cajarc, France — A Roman Catholic parish priest said he will refuse to marry novelist Francois Sagan and publisher Guy Schoeller because her books are "immoral."

Father Pierre Corbeille said there would be no religious wedding at his church for the 21-year-old authoress and the 45-year-old Paris publisher although the banns of their marriage were posted in the Cajarc town hall a week ago.

Major Rene Maillebeau said he would be "happy" to officiate at a civil ceremony.

In Catholic France, a conventional wedding is performed at both civil and religious ceremonies. The law recognizes only the civil ceremony, the church accepts only the religious rite.

Father Corbeille's stand appeared to rule out the quaint town as the scene of the wedding unless the couple decided to forego the church ceremony.

Cajarc, a village of 1,250 persons in southwestern France is Miss Sagan's birthplace. Her family has a country residence nearby.

## Hosler Case Said Under Advisement

Vale, Ore. — Judge M. A. Biggs has under advisement arguments on a demurrer filed by attorney Bob Lyle in connection with the indictment of County Auditor Don Hosler for allegedly receiving compensation above his stated salary.

Malheur County District Attorney E. Otis Smith said that statutory and constitutional problems raised by the demurrer were so technical it might be several weeks before Judge Biggs comes up with a decision. Hosler has been charged with receiving unauthorized payment of county funds in connection with the construction of the Malheur county nursing home. One of the contentions of Hosler's counsel is that the statute under which Hosler was indicted is unconstitutional.

## Labor Head Refuses Teamster Expulsion

South Bend, Ind. — A South Bend labor official said he will "strongly resist" an order from the AFL-CIO to expel a Teamsters union local because we "have had excellent relations with the teamsters in this area in the past."

Roy B. Root, president of the South Bend Central Labor union and the St. Joseph County Building Trades council, said he can "see no reason now why we should fail to cooperate" with the teamsters.

The AFL-CIO recently ordered Root to expel all teamsters locals from city and state central groups.

"This is a free country and I believe it is a prerogative of our own as to what we want to decide about the teamsters," Root said.

## Letters Of Ouster Await Teamsters

Portland — Letters officially ousting the Teamsters union from local and state labor groups are expected this week, officials of the AFL-CIO Oregon Labor council said Friday.

The Portland Central council at a special executive board meeting Friday discussed whether another election must be held here, since members of the teamsters union voted in the election, and the union was expelled from the AFL-CIO on the national level before the election took place.

No decision was reached, council officials said, pending receipt of a letter from AFL-CIO President George Meany in which he calls for expulsion of the Teamsters on the state and local levels "immediately."

## Venus Beautiful Reminder Of Christmas Star in East

By FAY BENTLEY

Calm, in the darkening twilight  
A jewel gleams on high,  
Earth-dwellers call it Venus  
This diamond of the sky.

That leads a starry, twinkling  
host  
Upon a sable field,  
And to the night lends magic  
Which day can never yield.

To view this celestial pageant,  
Handwork of Divinity:  
Brings a feeling of awe and  
reverence  
With thoughts of eternity.

And every earth-bound mortal  
Who must dwell here on the sod:  
May nightly see the heavens  
declare  
The glory of our God.

At this Yuletide season when  
thoughts of many are centered  
on "The Star of the East" it  
seems especially fitting for the  
planet, Venus, to be shining its  
glorious best on Christmas Eve.

A beautiful reminder of the celestial body that went before the Wise Men "till it came and stood over where the young child was."

Quite naturally it has been suggested that this planet was the brilliant "sign" which guided the Magi in their quest of the Holy Babe.

It is entirely possible that Venus may have been shining most brilliantly in the eastern morning sky at the time when the Wise Men were making their journey. At regular intervals of approximately one and one half years Venus presents such an appearance.

However, these highly educated travelers would in all likelihood be familiar with the apparent movements of the planets, and it seems doubtful that they would consider such a regular visitor as Venus to be the sign they sought.

**Rare Occasions**

On extremely rare occasions two or three bright planets appear close together in the sky. Perhaps some people recall having seen Venus and Jupiter in conjunction in the eastern morning sky during the month of December, 1946. Though separated by millions of miles they seemed to almost touch each other for a few mornings as they blazed in the heavens before sunrise.

In December, 1603, Kepler, a great astronomer of that time, reported a close conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, with Mars entering the picture a little later. He was much impressed by what he termed a "triple conjunction."

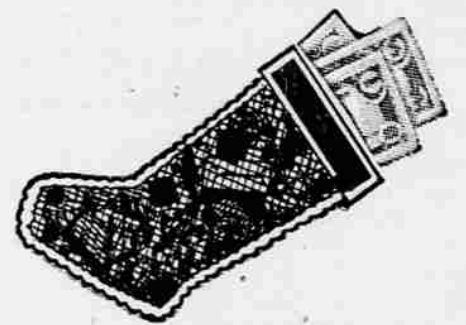
Some observers have advanced the theory that ancient people may have called a planetary conjunction a star and that the Star of Bethlehem was really a natural phenomenon of this type.

## PRINCE ADDS YEAR

Tokyo — Crown Prince Akihito celebrated his 24th birthday quietly here today. The crown prince lunched with his father and mother, Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako, at the Imperial Palace. He spent most of the day at home, receiving congratulations from relatives and friends.

Taipei, Formosa — Communist artillery pounded the Chinese Nationalist outpost of Quemoy for nearly an hour and a half Sunday, causing 10th reported casualties nor damage, it was announced. A similar bombardment early Saturday destroyed one civilian home on the island, the Defense Ministry said.

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## Hearing Resumes on Rail Abandonment

Portland — A hearing on Portland Traction company's application to abandon passenger service on the Belrose and Oregon City interurban lines resumed here today.

The company claims out-of-pocket losses and insufficient patronage.

PTC is continuing, pending a decision by Howard Morgan, public utility commissioner, the trolley service and a bus shuttle over the Hawthorne bridge.

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They had never flown before. But early one morning Zdenek Machner, 19, and Karel Kucera, 20, tied up a Czech guard and wobbled to the safety of West Germany in a stolen plane.

## Neither could fly... but they soloed to freedom

These two escaped — but 70 million others remain captive behind the Iron Curtain. And these are the people at whom Radio Free Europe beams its daily broadcasts. Escape is not its aim. Radio Free Europe penetrates the Iron Curtain to spread truth . . . to strengthen hope and resistance.

Said the youths above, "It (Radio Free Europe) added courage and strength to strained nerves." "It offered us . . . a hope for a better future," said a young nurse who fled to the West.

"Everybody is listening—even the Communists," said an escaped Czech skating champion.

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