

Refusal to Provide Funds for New Dams Reflects Mood Shift

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — The refusal of Congress to appropriate funds to start any new hydro-electric dams this year in the Pacific Northwest was a reflection of the shift in mood within the House of Representatives between late winter and late summer. During the early months of



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this session, Congress was preoccupied with enacting legislation that would cure the recession or at least cut into the mounting unemployment rolls and put men to work—and public works spending by the government was the most popular means, whether it found expression in building dams, dredging harbors, or increasing federal funds for highways and housing.

In this period, during March, President Eisenhower got on the same bandwagon and asked Congress to revise upward his original budget requests for public works projects. Consequently the amount of money requested for John Day dam, for example, was raised from \$2 million to \$8 million.

Effects Subside
But by August the grave concern over the effects of the recession had noticeably subsided, and fresh concern over federal spending beyond the national debt ceiling seemed to take its place. The administration, forced to ask for authority to increase the debt ceiling twice, also began fighting hard against heavier appropriations for civilian purposes than the president

had budgeted. Eisenhower even vetoed one appropriation bill because it contained one item he considered unnecessary. The Public Works bill emerged in the anti-recession period in the House. The Senate got hold of the bill late in this same period and agreed to everything the House had added, then threw in its own new projects, including Green Peter dam, the south Santiam river. Mood Shifts Quickly
But by the time that the representatives of both bodies sat down to work out a com-

promise version, the mood shifted quickly. The House members, more sensitive to the grass roots situation because they all face reelection this fall, got their backs up against the many Senate additions and refused for weeks even to talk compromise. In past years, this jockeying has paid off for the Northwest in terms of four new dams started over the opposition of the administration and without the original approval of the House. Funds were put in by the Senate for Ice Harbor, Hills Creek and Cougar dams in 1955, and for John Day dam last year, and

then agreed to by the House in conference.

Although this type of maneuver failed this year for dams, the Northwest did receive a much larger appropriation for a brand new type of project—\$45 million for starting a plutonium reactor at the Hanford works which could later be converted for power generation. In terms of funds, possible power output and significance for the future use of atomic energy, this new reactor project that won approval far outweighs those that fell by the wayside when Congress suddenly tightened the purse strings before adjournment.

Russia Approached To Ease Restrictions

Washington — (UPI) — The United States has approached Russia for the second time on an agreement to either abolish or ease travel restrictions imposed on American citizens in the Soviet Union. The United States, in a note delivered to the Soviet Embassy here Tuesday, offered to wipe out reciprocal limitations in this country on travel by Russians. The State Department said Wednesday night the note chides Russia for failing even to answer the U.S.'s May proposal calling for doing away with the restrictions. The new U.S. note pointed out, Russia more than a year ago said it was willing to discuss the travel problem but since has kept mum about it. Both countries now have closed off about one-third of their territory to travel by citizens of the other. A group of 14 "private" Soviet tourists has just arrived in the United States, the first such group to do so. Eighteen more are expected to arrive Aug. 30.

Severe Storms Hit Mid-West; Flash Floods Reported

By United Press International
Widespread severe thunderstorms during the night spread damage across lower Michigan and touched off flash flooding in parts of Oklahoma. The storms ranged from the Southern Plateau, over the Rockies into Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas and northeast into the Great Lakes Region. One of the worst storms slammed into Paw Paw, Mich., uprooting more than 100 trees and knocking out most power and telephone lines. No one was hurt in the storm, accompanied by strong winds and hail, but numerous homes were damaged and countless windows shattered. Cause Lesser Damage
The line of storms across Michigan caused lesser damage at Detroit, Livonia, Swartz Creek near Flint, and a rural area near Lowell. Flash floods swirled across the Seminole and Weoka areas in Oklahoma, forcing evacuation of 30 families in the Seminole area. No serious injuries were reported and no one was reported missing. Boats were pressed into service to rescue four skaters stranded at a skating rink which was swept away at Seminole. Two state highways were closed at Seminole when floodwaters climbed more than a foot over bridges at Salt Creek and Little River. Trains in the area were delayed and numerous cars were stalled on highways. Hail, rain and high winds also lashed North Texas Wednesday night with hail as big as golf balls pounding the northeast section of the community of Gainesville in about one hour. Other heavy rainfall included 2.16 inches at Mineral Wells, Tex.; 1.58 inches at Topeka, Kan.; 1.04 at Emporia, Kan.; 1.20 at Hobbs, N.M.; and 1.01 at Gladwin, Mich.

Two Waterfront Fires Extinguished

Portland — (UPI) — Two fires in the St. Johns waterfront area harassed Portland city firemen for several hours late Wednesday. One of the blazes, which started near the SP&S railroad track about a mile west of the St. Johns bridge, flashed over the tinder-dry grass and brush, spreading rapidly eastward. Flames destroyed a large supply of cordwood in the yard of the Erion Lumber and Fuel company, but firemen were able to save the firm's main building. While firemen were still fighting the first blaze a second fire broke out on the launching ways of the old Oregon shipyard about a mile west. A fireboat and several truck and engine companies were quickly dispatched and controlled the fire in a short time.

Unsuccessful Candidate Named to Vacancy

Portland — (UPI) — Richard Hill, 31, unsuccessful candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress for the third district, Wednesday was named to a GOP state representative nomination vacancy in the North City Subdistrict of Multnomah county. Hill was named to fill the vacancy created by resignation of Mrs. Elizabeth Sailor, who was nominated in the May primary, according to Alan Green, chairman of the Multnomah County GOP Central committee. Los Angeles — (UPI) — John Scott Weismuller, 17, son of ex-movie Tavan, Johnny Weismuller, was detained in Juvenile Hall today for a pre-emption hearing on misdemeanor drunk driving, hit-run charges.

Salmon Glads Winning Display

Salmon glads arranged in a slanting triangle won the championship for Cheryl Swanson in the floral contest at the 4-H and FFA county fair this week. Judges Mrs. Randall Kay and Mrs. L. C. Gorden were pleased with the work done by the competitors as they took flowers and vases provided them and made attractive arrangements before a sizeable audience, according to Glenn Klein, county 4-H agent. Blue ribbon award — Patty McCue, Central Point. Red ribbon award — Judy Frink, Central Point; Dorna Lee Mose, Central Point, and Elaine Young, Central Point. During part of the Revolutionary war, the Liberty bell was hidden in an Allentown, Pa., church.

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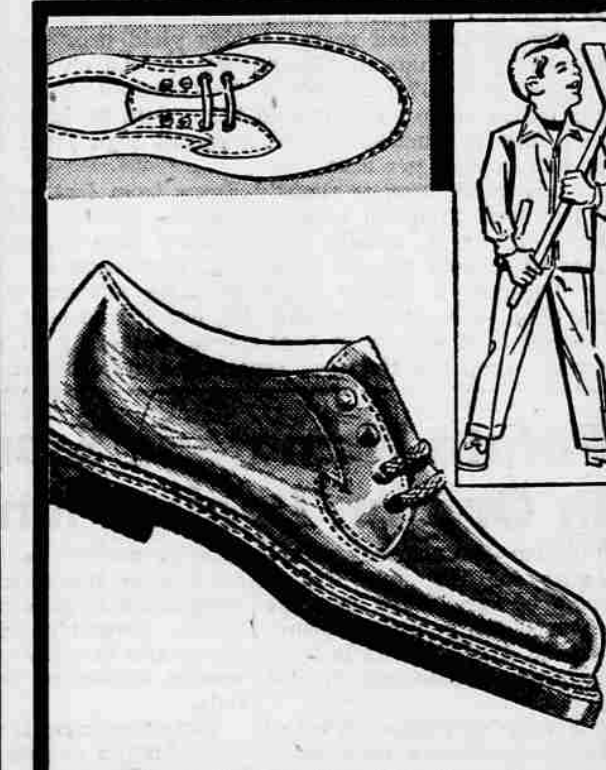
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Sizes 10-18
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