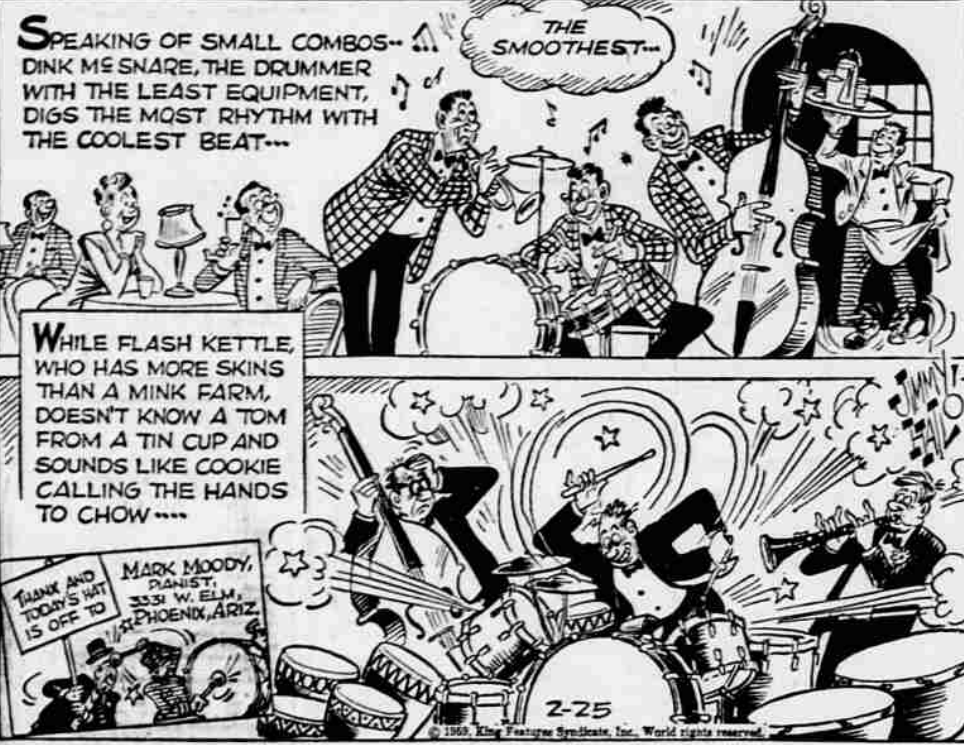


They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Canada-U.S. Agreement on Columbia Power Said Nearer

New York—UPI—The prospect of complete and final agreement between Canada and the United States on Columbia river power was given a big forward shove at a secret meeting in New York's plush Waldorf-Astoria Hotel last week.

That is, what went on was secret—it was generally known that the International Joint Commission was holding sessions at the Waldorf with Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton representing Canada and former Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay the United States. However, no public announcement of the meeting was made in advance.

The long-argued dispute was given a push toward settlement in pretty obvious. The United States and Gen. McNaughton both are determined to get a final agreement soon in order to keep the Columbia in the race with the Peace river power plan for first place in the affections of Ottawa.

A Real Race

This is going to be a real horse race. The British Columbians incline towards giving priority to the Peace river for several reasons. For example, President W. C. Mainwaring of Peace River

Development Co. says Peace power can be made available by 1966 while it may take until 1970 at the earliest to carry out a program on the Columbia, even if final agreement with the United States is reached in the next few months.

Because of this time element, it is claimed British Columbia will have to build thermal plants if she has to wait on the Columbia program for new hydro power.

Power from the Peace river would serve communities from Prince George to Kamloops, the Okanagan Valley and metropolitan Vancouver and Vancouver Island.

The Gordon Commission has estimated that by 1975, British Columbia will need 12,500,000 horsepower—some two million more horsepower than she can get from the Peace river plus what can reasonably be obtained from the Columbia.

Oregon Needs Urgent

But the big question for the next few months is—what kind of division will be hammered out between Canada and the United States of the power to be generated downstream now that the Americans have accepted the principle of compensating Canada

for storing water along the Columbia north of the border? Canada clearly is in the stronger bargaining position. Great as her long range needs for power are, they are not nearly so urgent as the immediate needs of Washington and Oregon.

Therefore, Canada is in a good position to enforce her demands for a strictly 50-50 sharing of both the benefits—in the shape of power—and the costs of the Columbia project.

Canada also finds her hand strengthened in her determination to retain the right to recapture Columbia river waters in time to come, leaving Washington and Oregon to find newer sources of power—possibly by nuclear fission or harnessing the energy of the sun.

BEETLES BONANZA

Washington—UPI—The Smithsonian Institution reports it has come into a veritable bonanza of beetles—30,000 of them. O. L. Cartwright, a U.S. National Museum entomologist, collected the beetles in El Salvador and has turned them over to the Smithsonian insect collection.

Comprehensive Re-Enactment Of Compensation Law Studied

Salem—UPI—A comprehensive re-enactment of the workmen's compensation law to permit employers to insure with the state, private firms or carry insurance themselves was introduced in the Oregon House Tuesday by Rep. Keith D. Skelton (D-Eugene).

The bill requires coverage of all employers except farmers and employers in non-hazardous occupations employing less than 10 persons. Insurance rates would be set by a rating organization under supervision of the state insurance commissioner.

Separate Control

Workmen's compensation would remain for administration with the Industrial Accident Commission, but a separate board of directors would control and manage the industrial accident fund.

Companion bills would require all insurers issuing workmen's compensation insurance to be members of the rating organization and certified by the state insurance commissioner.

Some \$250,000 would be appropriated for the administrative fund of the industrial accident commission. Another bill abolishes the portion of the industrial accident fund set aside for vocational rehabilitation and

national rehabilitation and shifts the responsibility for rehabilitation to the employers.

Fiscal Officers

A legislative fiscal officer to help legislators analyze budgets and perform other functions is provided for in a bill passed 42-16 by the House. The bill now goes to the governor.

Between 15 and 18 states now have such officers to help lawmakers come to independent evaluations about the administration of government.

Rep. George Layman (R-Newberg) said the Legislature had failed to keep pace with the executive and judiciary parts of government in providing staff services and thus were at a disadvantage when they met every two years.

Layman said the bill does not provide for elimination of the audits division of the secretary of state's office despite Senate efforts to amend it along this line. He added it was not an attempt to take away any executive power.

Rep. Katherine Musa (D-The Dalles) said the fiscal officer could put witnesses under oath in gathering information for the Legislature.

The secretary of state's office and the State Finance Department are expected to cooperate with the new officer.

Expense of the program for the first two years would be \$60,000.

Two large timber firms took opposite stands on a timber tax measure at a hearing before the House Tax Committee. The bill, HB. 14,

would give holders of timber for long periods an advantage in annual tax rates.

Attorney Roger Henselman of Weyerhaeuser Timber Company favored the bill.

Corrects Interpretation

He said it was necessary to correct a Tax Commission interpretation of the present law. This, he said, puts all timber owners in four counties on the same depletion rate despite their individual cutting cycles.

Robert Oslund, tax agent for Georgia-Pacific, opposed the bill.

He said the proposal would penalize small owners by taxing an operator with a small supply of timber at a higher rate than assigned to an owner with a large reserve. It also would put a higher tax on second-growth timber than on old-growth, Oslund added.

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