

Nez Perce Dam Said Detrimental To Fishermen

Portland—(UP)—Witnesses told a Federal Power Commission hearing Monday that the proposed Nez Perce dam on the Snake river would be a detriment to both sports and commercial fishing.

The FPC is conducting a hearing on rival applications for Nez Perce and Mountain Sheep dams.

Roy A. Holland, Bremerton, Wash., attorney and secretary-treasurer of the Washington State Sportsmen's Council, said his group definitely opposed the proposed Nez Perce dam. He said the group had passed a resolution opposing construction of any dam on the Snake below its junction with the Salmon river.

Dr. James A. Crutchfield, associate professor of economics at the University of Washington, said he favored Mountain Sheep over Nez Perce.

Pacific Northwest Power Co. has applied to build Mountain Sheep, Washington Public Power Supply System wants to build Nez Perce.

The hearing was in its third week. Proposed sites of the two dams were visited during the week end by utility and FPC representatives.



DAMAGED HOUSES—This aerial picture shows damaged houses in Thrall, Kan., where a tornado hit over the week end. The storm was one of a series that swept Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. (UPI Telephoto)

Public Housing for Elderly Is Discussed at Council Meeting

Gene Rossman, executive director of the Portland Housing authority, said here Monday there is a "traditional opposition" to public housing on the part of several organizations. But he attributed this opposition to "public misunderstanding."

Rossman, speaking as regional president of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, addressed his remarks to a meeting of the Rogue Valley Council on Aging held in the Medford library.

Accompanying Rossman was Don Byers, the architect for a new 150-unit public housing project in Portland. (Byers may be remembered locally as the designer of the Medford Plaza apartments on South Oakdale ave. Rossman served on the 1959 Oregon Centennial commission with Mayor John W. Snider, who also attended yesterday's meetings.)

Could Provide Housing
Rossman declared that it is "absolutely conceivable" that private enterprise could provide housing for low-income bracket people, charging a rent they can afford, and still make a profit.

He said there is no reason for conflict between public and private housing if public housing is properly operated—because it is not supposed to operate at a profit. He added that the purpose of public housing is to provide decent and sanitary living facilities for low-income bracket people who could not afford adequate private housing in the first place.

Rossman speaks from experience since the Portland Housing authority now operates three public housing projects, having a total of more than 600 living units. Only 100 of these are for the elderly, however.

'A Continuous Program'
Asked what steps can be taken to counter vocal opposition to the idea of public housing, Rossman replied that it requires "a continuous program of public education." Little opposition is heard in Portland anymore, he added. Rossman and Byers had stopped off in Medford yesterday while on a trip to San Francisco to get approval of the authority's plans for a 150-unit housing development for Portland's elderly.

Rossman pointed out that housing authorities can be established either by the city or the county. The Portland Housing authority is a city body, he said, and its members are appointed by the mayor.

Several members of the Rogue Valley Council on Aging said they were thinking in terms of having a county authority, since the area's housing problems are county-wide. They expressed concern that the county might refuse to establish such an authority.

Three-Story Building
In addition to the main facility, a smaller three-story building, having 39 units, will be erected adjacent to it. This will be reserved for families with pre-school children, Rossman said, to give the development an "aura of a typical neighborhood."

Also, a two-story community service center will connect with the main structure, and will house recreational facilities and counseling rooms.

The entire development will cost an estimated \$1,700,000, which has already been assured by the federal public housing administration. It is hoped that construction can start within 60 days with the building to be completed 18 months later.

Members of the Rogue Valley Council on Aging were chiefly interested in how to get started here to determine the need for public housing for the elderly. The Council is interested in what steps would be necessary to have a local housing authority established.

On the first point, Rossman explained that the study was undertaken in Portland, largely at the urging of the mayor. A representative sampling was taken of the 5,000 people in that city who are on old-age assistance, and it was found that 3,750 of them, or 75 per cent, were living in substandard dwellings.

This survey cost only \$500, he said, using the help of graduate students at Portland State college. He said the federal public housing administration provides the funds for the study, and also provides an instructor to train the per-

sons making the survey.

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Ex-County Commissioner Ralph James was at the meeting, and he suggested that "public pressure" would have a lot to do with the county's action in this respect.

Rossman noted that a county housing authority would first have to obtain the permission and cooperation of a city council before it could do any work within a city. He observed that the same authority could have jurisdiction over both urban renewal and housing projects, if it chose to organize that way. This is not the case in Portland.

To finance a housing project, money is borrowed from the federal public housing administration to get the project under way. The housing authority then sells bonds (backed by the federal government) on the open market to repay this loan within two years. The authority then has 40 years to pay off the bonds. At the end of this time the project is owned by the authority.

"Theoretically," Rossman said, "a public housing project pays for itself." But, in practice this is not quite the case. He said the federal housing administration subsidizes the authority at the rate of about \$10 per unit per month to offset the difference in income and cost of operation.

Rossman did not have the answers to many of the questions asked yesterday, since most of them were concerned with the beginnings of a housing authority. However, he assured those attending the meeting that he would find

Hatfield To Break Ground at Eugene

Salem—(UP)—Gov. Mark Hatfield will take part in a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday morning for the new state office building in Eugene.

At noon he will introduce Chancellor John R. Richards of the State System of Higher Education at a Rotary meeting in Salem.

out the answers while in San Francisco and report back at a later date.

IT MOVES MOUNTAINS

Milwaukee, Wis.—(UP)—Some Milwaukeeans appear to have performed the impossible for love. A marble statue of the goddess Venus weighing 500 shapely pounds has disappeared from the garden of Harold J. Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald told authorities Monday the statue was so heavy it took three men to lift it onto its pedestal. But whoever took it didn't even leave footprints in his garden.

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AIRBASE TO CLOSE

Tampa, Fla.—(UP)—The Air Force said Monday it will close MacDill Air Force Base on June 30, 1962. It was announced last year that the base would be inactivated because of the Air Force's cut-back in medium bomber strength.

LARGE LIBRARIES

Washington—Largest libraries in the United States are the Library of Congress, Harvard university library and the New York public library.

Clark Gable's Widow Due To Leave Hospital

Hollywood—(UP)—Clark Gable's widow, Kay, 43, is expected to leave Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital today, eight days after giving birth to the actor's only child, John Clark Gable.

The baby was taken home from the hospital Sunday. Gable died in the same hospital Nov. 16.

SEEKS HOUSE SEAT

Nashville, Tenn.—(UP)—The widow of the late Rep. B. Carroll Reece (R-Tenn.) will be among the candidates for his congressional seat in a special election May 16. More than 100 Republicans in the state's first District have endorsed Mrs. Reece as her husband's successor.



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