

Record of Congress Good or Poor, Depending on Individual Reaction

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West
The 87th Congress approved a number of bills that Oregonians may have reason to long remember, especially in the resource development field, but it left as many or more issues to be faced some other day.

Approval of the projected Hanford atomic power plant, the world's largest nuclear energy station, was likely the most significant decision of the 1961-62 congressional sessions.

In addition to this sanction for local public power development, Congress generously appropriated funds to start three new federal dams in the Pacific Northwest and a major improvement of the navigation utility of the lower Columbia river. Moreover, it authorized for further construction eight other dams in Oregon alone, plus others in neighboring states of the Columbia basin.

Deferred for further consideration were the Oregon Dunes seashore bills, the question of a California-Northwest power intertie and legislation granting the Northwest regional preference on Columbia river power, the wild-

ness expansion bill, and an overhaul of the so-called Jones act which Northwest lumbermen say handicaps their competitive efforts with Canada in the water-shipped lumber trade.

For some citizens and organizations, defeat of a controversial bill is as noteworthy an accomplishment as its enactment is for others. So the record of the 87th Congress is good or poor, depending on one's philosophical reaction to its decisions — and its indecision on various issues.

Letters of Protest

A child labor bill, for example, provoked more letters of protest from Oregon than any other single measure affecting the lives of Oregon citizens because it would have restricted the employment of youngsters in the harvest fields.

Drafted to prevent exploitation of the children of migrant workers, it was unpopular with those Oregonians who feared it would needlessly violate the tradition by which Oregon youngsters go out to the fruit and vegetable farms for summer jobs that also greatly help the local farmers. Rep. Edith Green successfully amended the bill on the House floor, after it had passed the Senate in 1961, to limit it to migrants — but in the end it died when an extraneous rider was attached affecting the whole field of state-federal relations.

Beyond such national legislation of immediate local interest, there were other more publicized legislative fights about which some Oregonians felt strongly, such as Medicare and federal aid for education, which were not enacted. Sen. Wayne Morse skillfully piloted the administration's aid for public school construction bill through the Senate in 1961, but it died in the House Rules Committee. Medicare passed neither chamber.

Compromise Version Killed
Congresswoman Green and Senator Morse led aid for college legislation through their respective houses; but the compromise version worked out in conference was later killed in the House by a coalition of conservative Republicans and Southern Democrats. The most significant national bill to pass was the trade expansion act, which will

have as yet undetermined consequences for better or worse as far as Oregon agriculture is concerned.

California Law Officials Close Books on Murder

Nevada City, Calif. — Nevada county authorities have "closed the books" on the 66-year-old mysterious slaying of Sheriff David Douglass, who was found shot in the back near the bullet-riddled body of a desperado of the Mother Lode region.

Present day Sheriff Wayne Brown has disclosed that the missing gunman in the case was just 12 years old when he fired the fatal bullet. He is now a respected retired sales executive living in the Pacific Northwest.

Brown refused to divulge the name of the man because "there is nothing we can do officially." But he said the mystery was solved because the suspect was driven by remorse years later and sought the sheriff's son, with the intention of paying him an undisclosed sum.

Died in Gunfire

Sheriff Douglass set off on the trail of outlaw Claude Meyers in July, 1896. The two men met on Cement Hill July 26, and Meyers died in a hail of lead from the sheriff's guns.

But, there was a witness to the battle, and he dropped the sheriff with a single shot in the back.

"For many years it was believed that the sheriff killed Meyers and, in turn, was gunned down by one of the bandit's confederates," Brown said, "but the fatal shot was fired by a boy."

Brown said that the youth had befriended the desperado and believed that he was involved in a gunfight with another killer. When the youngster saw his friend shot down, he killed the other man.

After shooting the sheriff, the boy presumably escaped a dragnet that was taken out for the fictitious outlaw. The lad wound up in the Pacific Northwest, where he became an executive in a nation-wide company.

culture, lumber and manufactured goods are concerned. Rep. Al Ullman was on the House Ways and Means Committee which drafted the bill. The bill offers prospects of more foreign markets for Oregon goods if suitable tariff concessions are concluded with Western Europe's Common Market nations; and the bill continues to afford Tariff Commission procedures designed to protect injured domestic producers.

One other national bill, a modest aid for educational television, may help Oregon's educational TV operations to be extended to all parts of the state.

Sen. Maurine Neuberger succeeded in getting the bill-board control feature of the interstate highway act continued for another two years last year. Originally championed by her late husband, Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, it offers modest incentive payments to states restricting advertising on the new interstate highway system.

For the past year, the Northwest members of Congress were preoccupied in large part by the complaints of segments of the lumber industry who demanded protective action against Canadian competitors and Forest Service timber sales practices. Morse and Mrs. Neuberger, along with Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), devoted

Funds Distributed

Salem — Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr. has apportioned \$12,092,170 to Oregon's 36 counties as their share of federal forest reserve rentals the past fiscal year.

The federal government pays the state a kickback of 25 per cent of its receipts from rentals of forest reserves, timber sales and other revenue sources.

Lane County got the biggest share in the latest allocation, \$3,018,743.

The second biggest share of \$1,658,919 went to Douglas County. Other prime shares, in order, went to Linn County \$944,578; Clackamas County \$833,925; Klamath County \$630,584; and Lincoln County, \$620,310.

The smallest share, \$463, went to Malheur County.

more attention to this problem than anyone else in Congress. Legislation to suspend the Jones act ban on use of cheaper foreign ships founded on opposition from Southern pine interests, but Mrs. Neuberger's proposal for opening the Puerto Rican market via foreign ships was enacted.

Congress also authorized increases in the federal forest road construction program, but it deferred until next year efforts to get funds to implement this legislation.

Under congressional pressure, the Kennedy administration opened talks with Canada about voluntary controls of lumber exports to the United States; it jacked up allowable cuts in some national forests and promised reviews of some disputed practices; and it issued a new policy at Morse's instigation denying the legal claims of private timberland owners who in the past have in some places prevented access across their lands to adjacent national forest timber while at the same time assuring a right to cross federal lands.

Congress appropriated funds for a new range rehabilitation experiment on the grazing lands of the Vale district in eastern Oregon. Congressman Ullman and Sen. Morse, who pressed for the project, were later unhappy when the Bureau of Land Management indicated only a minor portion of \$2 million appropriated would actually go for range improvements this year; but higher Interior officials privately assured that the project was not to be downgraded.

An immigration bill enacted last year outlawed the proxy adoption system used so effectively by Oregon's Harry Holt in his Korean orphan adoption program, thus virtually ending Holt's baby-lifts. The new law requires the adopting parents to see the child before the adoption and abide by adoption laws in their home states, many of which preclude adoptions of children of another race.

Morse's private immigration bill to bring back to Portland the two men deported in November, 1960, William Mackie and Hamish S. MacKay, didn't get past the speech-making stage.

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