

# California Committee Presses For Benefits on Klamath River

Sacramento—The California Senate Natural Resources Interim committee, while satisfied with many of the results of the construction of Iron Gate dam on the Klamath river, is continuing to press for three specific benefits according to Sen. Randolph Collier.

They are an FPC decision which would require Pacific Power and Light company to defray 81 per cent of the cost of operating and maintaining the Iron Gate fish hatchery; detailed studies by the department of fish and game of water temperatures below the dam and an analysis of possible modifications of installa-

tions on the Klamath to obtain the best continual flow of cool water for spawning, and revision of the FPC Federal Power company license to Pacific Power and Light imposing a maximum release from the dam.

The committee at Collier's request held a hearing in Yreka last Aug. 31, and considered allegations of sportsmen and others that the Iron Gate dam, then under construction, would not provide the full regulation of the Klamath river which had been sought.

The final report of the Interim committee, recently released, found that the fluctua-

tions of water flow during 1962 were almost entirely eliminated, except for certain periods beyond the control of the power company.

However, Collier pointed out, the dam was constructed to provide flow regulation, and there is no positive statement for full regulation in the license.

The committee, Collier explained, would like an amendment to the license setting a

maximum of 1,750 cubic feet per second, which would be greater than normal releases of the company dam.

He said the committee will press for such an amendment if future flow management does not adhere to that expected or desired by the state wildlife agencies.

"The Klamath river fisheries are a major factor in northern California economy," Collier said. "The fish-

ery reproduction is far less than should be expected in this system which includes many hundreds of miles of this waterway which is second only in California to the Sacramento-San Joaquin system. We dare not settle for less than optimum fish production from the river."

**Inundate Spawning Beds**

The Iron Gate dam has inundated 16 miles of former spawning beds and the old Fall Creek fish hatchery site, according to Collier.

The power company has made provision for fish trapping and egg collection facilities at the damsite, but has objected to state proposals

that the company pay the cost of operation and maintenance of the fish hatchery. The California attorney general has appeared before the FPC seeking such an arrangement, Collier said, and may file for a court hearing on the subject.

The committee believes Pacific Power and Light should, in fairness, pay 81 per cent of the operation and maintenance cost, recognizing that portion of the new hatchery which will absorb the production of the state operated Fall Creek hatchery now inundated by Iron Gate reservoir.

**To Abate Nuisance**

"The dam was constructed to abate a nuisance created by

and game make a detailed analysis of the possible modifications to Pacific Power

and Light company installations to provide the best continual flow of cool water.

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