

Reclamation Boss Straus Pleads For Construction Of Huge Hells Canyon Dam

By JOHN KAMPS
WASHINGTON (AP) — Reclamation Bureau Director Michael W. Straus declared Thursday that construction of Hells Canyon Dam in Idaho would make a "tremendous contribution" to the nation's economy and defense.

He appeared before the House Interior subcommittee on irrigation and reclamation on the second day of a hearing on a controversial bill to authorize the big project on the Snake River.

Straus said the proposed Reclamation Bureau project has "great dramatic appeal" because it "would rank as one of the outstanding dams of the entire world." He added:

"But its justification lies in the tremendous contribution that Hells Canyon can and should make to the economy and defense of the Pacific Northwest and of the nation."

"It lies in the billions and billions of kilowatt hours of hydro-electric energy that will flow from its turbines and river control operations, in its wide support of irrigation development, and in benefits to navigation, recreation, fish and wildlife propagation and con-

ervation, and other multiple-purpose uses—all of which can be provided by Hells Canyon faster, cheaper and in closer harmony with other basin-wide developments than through any other means."

Reclamation Bureau engineers estimate Hells Canyon dam would cost about 357 million dollars.

Authorization is asked also for the 44 million dollar Scriver Creek project, through which water would be diverted from the northern to the middle fork of the Payette river and used for generation of power.

Hells Canyon would be the world's highest dam. The concrete arch type dam would rise 740 feet in a canyon on the Idaho-Oregon border.

"By its very size," Straus said, "Hells Canyon invites controversy as it would be utterly impracticable for a project of its magnitude and impact to have the full support of all affected interests."

"There are those who think, or say that they see in Hells Canyon the bogeyman of federal domination, the suppression of state's rights, the destruction of private enterprise, the extravagant waste of federal funds, the march of socialism and other dire consequences."

Straus said Hoover and Grand Coulee dams once were attacked by some members of Congress who used arguments similar to those advanced against Hells Canyon, but both projects have had "outstanding success."

"The similarity of Hells Canyon to Hoover and Coulee is so striking that it can not be ignored," Straus said.

At the site chosen, he said, "a narrow plug of concrete and steel can completely control and provide for utilization of the entire upstream drainage of the Snake river in such manner as to serve mankind best."

"Only one structure will develop the potentials of this site. Only one dam will fit the topography, fulfill the needs and meet the demands of an intelligent plan. Anything less will mean forfeiting forever the widespread benefits of sound resources development that are there for the taking."

"The nation cannot afford small developments that usurp the real and needed potential of a natural site."

By "small developments," Straus apparently meant power dams which the Idaho Power company, a leading opponent of the Hells Canyon proposal, plans to build in the Snake river.

Hells Canyon would flood four or five of the company's proposed dam-sites.

Idaho Power Company officials, members of Idaho's delegation in Congress, and spokesmen for irrigation interests along the Snake river are expected to oppose Hells Canyon dam at the hearing, which will run six or seven days.

The dam would form a 93-mile long reservoir with capacity of 4,400,000 acre-feet.

Its power plant would turn out 900,000 kilowatts of electric energy and add 1,430,500 kilowatts to the Columbia river system by operating in conjunction with downstream projects.

Rodeo Plan Call For Big Show

Klamath Basin Roundup directors last night added two additional attractions to this year's Roundup Rodeo bill by signing two clown-bullfighters.

Sherman Crane, with his trick mule and monkey, has been trained in many of the nation's big rodeos. His dwarf mule, "Hula," and monkey "Jazzbo," also perform in the arena.

Racing up Crane will be Teddy Billings, who appeared here last year. Billings, a newcomer to rodeo circles, confined himself to clowning last year. This year, he is adding bullfighting to his act.

Other special performers already contracted are two girl trick riders, Jackie Carstens and Marge Thorn. The latter girl appeared here last year.

Five Roundup dances were scheduled last night. The Queen's Ball is set for June 21. A street dance which is to adjourn to the Armory is slated for June 28. Other dances are scheduled July 3, 4 and 5.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce is to handle the Roundup program. Roundup Assoc. Pres. Bob Robbins said details had already been agreed on.

A delegation of former Jackpot Rodeo leaders attended last night's meeting and said their group was ready to participate again this year in the Roundup Rodeo.

The visitors made several suggestions for policy changes in next year's rodeo. Roundup directors appeared in accord with the Jack-potters' ideas and said they would explore the matter further after this year's Roundup.

Wilson River Flood Control Plan OK

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Wilson River near Tillamook, Ore., will get \$40,000 in emergency flood control work soon.

Army Engineers told Rep. Norblad (R-Ore.) they had allocated \$30,000 for the work, including sloping and diking about 1,600 feet of river bank.

The Oregon Highway Commission will add \$10,000 for the work. Bank erosion in that area is believed to endanger U. S. Highway 101, a bridge and an area which floods at high water stages.

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