

### Ten Interim Legislative Committees Appointed

SALEM (AP) — Ten legislative interim committees, which will make investigations and report to the 1953 Legislature, were appointed Saturday by Senate President Eugene F. Marshall and House Speaker Rudee Wilhelm Jr. The committees are: Legislative Counsel, to Review the Laws and Draft Legislative Bills — Sens. Marsh, Gene L. Brown, Grants Pass; Stewart Hardie, Condon; Richard L. Neuberger, Portland; and Elmo Smith, John Day; and Reps. Wilhelm; W. W. Chadwick, Salem; Frank Deich, Portland; Carl Francis, Dayton; Donald R. Husband, Eugene; and J. P. Steiwer, Fossil.

### 2nd Bay Span Bill Passed

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Legislation calling for a new 200-million-dollar crossing of San Francisco Bay was rushed to Acting Gov. Goodwin J. Knight for his signature Saturday. Both houses chose the southern crossing over a span that would parallel the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, and Knight was ready to act on the bill in Gov. Warren's absence.

The lieutenant governor arranged first for a hearing today at the request of Otto H. Fischer, chairman of the Bay Crossings Committee of East Bay Communities, which has been campaigning for the parallel bridge. But there was little doubt he would sign the bill, perhaps right away. Legislative action was completed late Friday when the Senate voted 31 to 1 for the bill by Assemblyman Richard J. Dolwig (R-San Carlos) previously passed by the Assembly. It conditionally directs early construction of an eight-mile span from Army Street, San Francisco, to Bay Farm Island, Alameda—south of the existing bridge. The vote climaxed a long and bitter dispute over a rival plan to authorize both the southern crossing and a twin to the 16-year-old San Francisco-Oakland Bridge, but to let the Toll Bridge Authority set the priority.

### Power Official, Legislator Debate

PORTLAND (AP) — Idaho Power Company plans for development of the Snake River were debated here Friday by Oregon State Sen. Richard L. Neuberger and Robert Ball, Boise, an executive of the power company.

Neuberger, who favors federal construction of a high dam at Hells Canyon, said the power company's program was one of "pygmy development" of the Columbia Basin. A high dam at Hells Canyon would do a better job of firming up downstream power output, he said. Ball said the power output of Idaho Power's proposed dams at Brownlee, Osborn and Hells Canyon would provide just about as much power over a 50-year period as a high Hells Canyon dam. The dams, he said, would not affect downstream navigation. Ball added that flood control was not a factor as most of the Columbia's flooding comes from the Salmon and Clearwater Rivers, not the Snake.

### Along Nature's Trail By Ken McLeod

Siltation has probably become the greatest single factor in the national decline of the fish catch on our inland waters. In some localities the factor of municipal and industrial pollution has been the chief offender, however, in either case the result has developed from man's occupation of the land.

In the early days our land was covered with forest or with prairie vegetation and when the rains fell the welcome moisture that they brought, soaked into the soil to gradually reappear as flowing springs, any run-off during heavy rains was usually clear water because the soil remained on the land.

Most of the siltation which has taken place can be attributed directly to human activity—our farming and ranching, our road building, our cutting and burning of forest. It is true that erosion took place in Mother Nature's management of the land, this was, however a long and slow process—a necessary concomitant in the creation of the land. Nature's method was not the rash, harmful, corrosive effect created by man for aquatic life developed and flourished under Nature's management of the streams.

Man has blamed the decline of aquatic life upon many things other than siltation and as a consequence we have almost no exact information on the harmful effects of siltation upon fish life. Perhaps this lack of information can be attributed to the difficulties involved in studying such a big problem as well as the lack of appreciation of the harmful effects present. Possibly some blame can be placed upon the inadequate training of fishery biologists which has stressed training largely in the field of zoology and botany with little reference to the importance of farm and forestry practices to fish habitat and fishing.

We do know that siltation is a major destroyer of fish habitat. As an example, a survey made by the Soil Conservation Service in the White River watershed in Minnesota indicates that originally this watershed had 150 miles of good trout streams. By 1941, as the result of siltation, only 10 miles remained.

WHY THEY SERVE OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — State Sen. George Mikovsky, musing Thursday night about how much money he had lost from his law practice during the legislative session, commented there was only one reason for him to be there. "And that's to satisfy my ego," the candid lawmaker said.

proved at any practicable cost. But, the streams can be improved. If we stop siltation and allow the rain to be absorbed by the soil, Mother Nature will do a good job of restoring fish habitat.

A recent report of the U.S. Forest Service shows what can be accomplished. In the Clark National Forest in Missouri, a half of this forest area can now take heavy rains up to two inches, directly into the soil, without run-off. In this area many streams and springs have returned to permanent flow, instead of being intermittent. The streams are now referred to as "milky," not "muddy," following heavy rains. During the past dry summer the flow at one point on the Current River was 1,600 cubic feet per second as compared to 1,250 cfs in the less severe droughts of 1934 and 1936. Plant and animal life in the streams is in much greater evidence now than in 1936. Fishing has improved, and on several of the waters is reported as the best in the memory of the present generation of anglers. That is what improved watershed protection has done for fish and fishing in one national forest.



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