

Power Commission To Obtain Four Snake River Surveys

WASHINGTON (AP)—Four surveys, which an Interior Department spokesman intimated favor federal development of the Snake River, will be made available when the Power Commission considers a proposal by the Idaho Power Co. to build three dams on the Snake.

The Interior Department announced Tuesday it expects to provide "all of the facts available" concerning the Idaho company's proposal.

The commission has scheduled a hearing on the issue to start here July 7.

One of the four surveys is one prepared by John S. Cotton, consulting engineer of San Anselmo, Calif. It was reported last week by The Wenatchee (Wash.) Daily World to have been suppressed by the Interior Department. Members of Congress from the Pacific

Northwest have since called upon McKay to make it public.

The Daily World quoted the Cotton report as saying neither the original five-dam plan of the Idaho Power Co. nor the three-dam program it is now pushing is economically feasible. The paper said Cotton concluded the federal project... is the most attractive from all points of view.

Solicitor Clarence A. Davis of the Interior Department told newsmen Tuesday he had not studied the engineering report in detail personally but added "I would not be surprised if they all favor federal development. I assume at least they are not unfavorable." He added that arrangements for the studies covered by the reports were made under former Secretary Chapman.

Secretary McKay in May terminated six years of departmental opposition to private development by withdrawing intervention entered in a power commission case by Chapman.

Davis said copies of the four reports were obtainable from field offices where multiple copies are now being prepared.

The solicitor said all four reports were considered before McKay announced the withdrawal of intervention in the Snake River case.

Davis described the reports, in addition to the Cotton report, as having been prepared by Raymond A. Hill, a consulting engineer at Los Angeles; J. R. Riler, chief of the hydrology branch of the Reclamation Bureau's chief engineer's office in Denver; and Lynn Randall, district engineer of the U.S. Geological Survey and Snake River watermaster of the Idaho Department of Reclamation.

By signing the law, the governor declared, he paved the way for labor to test it in the courts. This test will permit labor, management and the public to find out where they stand, he said.

Then Patterson turned to describing what he said were gains made by labor at the last session of the Legislature.

He listed among them, increased retirement benefits available under the new public employees' retirement law, and the creation of the Oregon Development Commission which will attempt to determine how employment in the state can be stabilized.

Both laws were approved on his recommendation, Patterson said.

Another speaker at Tuesday's session was E. W. Weston, president of the Washington State Federation of Labor. Weston discussed Washington state politics and said the "reactionary" movement in the country was doing the working man a service because labor was being unified to oppose the movement.

Starving Ashore, Lemmings March Into Sea To Drown

POINT BARROW, Alaska (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of lemmings, said to face a "starve or drown" choice, are choosing drowning again in a mass migration into the Arctic Ocean's frigid waters.

The migration started here early this week and the little furry-footed rodents with the short tail and odd teeth have been pouring out from shore onto the sea ice in a continual stream since then.

There is no food on the ice either—just death by cold or drowning as they scamper off the floes into the water. Some have been observed as far as 25 miles from shore, still scampering over the sea ice.

Dr. John Buckley, biologist for

the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, said science can't fully explain the periodic suicide migrations of the lemmings in the Arctic.

But, he said, "when they exhaust their food, they haven't got much choice. They either starve on land or go out to sea and drown."

The lemmings feed on roots, and the scarcity of such forage in the bleak arctic coastline seems to bear out Dr. Buckley's explanation.

They migrate to their death periodically. The last time was in 1949. Countless thousands of them perished that year.

Lemmings are found in the cold, northern extremes of North America and Europe.

Presbyterians Elect, Resolve

EUGENE (AP)—The Rev. Harvey John Schmidt, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Lebanon, Tuesday was elected moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Oregon. He succeeds the Rev. Morris H. Roach of Roseburg.

The 300 church officials attending

the conference adopted a report by its social education and action committee calling for church members to be alert to possible infringement of their liberties.

"The suggestion that the ministry be investigated by a committee of Congress of the United States

is one of many indications that in position of political power, who call the church to assume its mission in defense of God-given and constitutionally guaranteed liberties against encroachment by those

would force conformity to their conception of orthodoxy in the name of patriotic loyalty," the report said.

Patterson 'Reluctant'

COOS BAY (AP)—Gov. Paul Patterson told the State Federation of Labor Tuesday he was reluctant when he signed Oregon's anti-picketing law.

He told the federation's convention that at the time he feared the law—approved by the Legislature over Patterson's protest—would upset the state's "excellent labor-management relations."

Since that time, he said, his fears have somewhat abated. One of the reasons for this is the fact that Ray Hill, a Portland labor representative, recently was chosen as chairman of a labor-management committee, he said.

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