



CONGRESSMAN SAM COON turned out Sunday for the ceremonies marking the end of paving on the Three Flags Highway (395) between Baker and Lakeview. Shown here at the Silvie Valley ceremony are (left to right) Coon, State Senator Emlo Smith, Governor Paul Patterson, who cut the ribbon, Oregon State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock.

### CIO, ADA, Co-op Group Hit Administration Power Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Eisenhower administration's newly enunciated power policy was under fire Thursday from the CIO Political Action Committee and spokesmen for Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) and the National Rural Cooperative Association.

The policy spelled out Tuesday with President Eisenhower's approval assigns to local interests, either public or private, the main role in developing power for the nation. The Interior Department said the federal government would continue to build multi-purpose dams too big for local units to undertake.

The CIO's political organization, meeting here to open a campaign for election of a pro-union Congress next year, Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution saying the power policy "threatens within a short time to wreck the entire public power program."

Robert R. Nathan, chairman of ADA's executive committee, said in a statement the decision to rely primarily on local interests "is an ill-concealed give-away of resources which belong to all the people."

ADA describes itself as an organization of liberals supporting the policies of former President Franklin D. Roosevelt.


The statement said the new government approach to power meant private interests will be in a position to "get a strangle-hold on power development and distribution, and thus put the brake on the continuing expansion of power for industries and farms."

Clyde T. Ellis, executive manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative, said in another statement the new policy would cost farmers several million dollars a year on their wholesale power bills because in most cases only power companies would be financially able to build electric projects and transmission lines.

transmission facilities so load centers within economically feasible distances "unless other public or private agencies have or will provide the necessary facilities upon reasonable terms."

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### Interior Department's Money Bill Great For Northwest

By FRANK W. VAILLE  
WASHINGTON (AP) — This year's Interior Department appropriation bill was an important measure for the Pacific Northwest.

Former Gov. Douglas McKay of Oregon became secretary of the Interior and was an important witness before House and Senate appropriations subcommittees which put the bill together.

Sen. Guy Cordon (R-Ore) headed the Senate subcommittee and conducted a lengthy hearing at which 515 witnesses testified. Cordon then piloted the bill through the Senate.

Possibly significant excerpts from McKay's testimony before the subcommittee:

Public vs. private power: "We are in the private business already and I would not want to see that scrapped, but I believe that private enterprise should have the opportunity to live and the government should in no event put roadblocks in the way of either private enterprise or co-ops or public owned utilities."

Bonneville Power Administration: "I think they spend too much money, engage in too much propaganda, have too many attorneys, too many engineers, too many people."

The proposed Ice Harbor Dam: "It is one of the essential projects, particularly for navigation."

Indians: "Something must be done to adjust the Indian population to our normal way of life and let them achieve progress by their own initiative."

Bonneville Administrator Paul Raver said studies indicate Bonneville rates will have to go up on Dec. 28, 1954, "a minimum of 10 per cent and a maximum of 25 per cent" because of increased costs of not only salaries and materials, but of new power-producing dams coming into service.

He agreed the 10-25 per cent estimate "seems like a pretty wide range," but said it was so because "we do not as yet have from the Federal Power Commission cost allocations on these new dams that will indicate how much of the dam is to be charged to power, how much to navigation, and how much to flood control."

Bonneville rates, now \$17.50 a kilowatt year, have not been increased since they were first set in 1939.

Although the bulk of Raver's testimony was in justification of Bonneville's budget requests, he engaged in one exchange with Sen. Dworshak (R-Idaho) concerning the government's role in North-

west water resource development. Asked if he believed it was "the primary responsibility of the government to generate power and to discourage private utilities from generating power and merely act as distribution agents," Raver declared:

"Either the federal government assumes that primary responsibility pretty soon, or somebody will have to, because that question of basic responsibility for taking care of the power needs for the economy of that region is going to have to be assumed by somebody or the region will suffer tremendous economic damage. And so long as the federal government is in a position where it, in essence, has preempted the main hydro-resources of the region, it has that responsibility whether it likes it or not. Something is going to have to be done about it."

One possible clue as to that "something" might be found in the testimony of Gus Norwood, executive secretary of the Northwest Public Power Association. In urging restoration of House cuts in operation and maintenance funds for Bonneville, he declared:

"Perhaps before the next Congress, we may be able to submit to the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee some legislation to outline revenue bond financing, possibly for the incorporation of Bonneville as a government corporation, possibly eventually for an interstate compact to take the job over within the region."

Anticipating that the Republican administration might make some change in its water policy, Norwood and others, including Cliff Erdahl, Northwest utilities conference chairman, urged that the region be warned in advance of any switch.

"I think," said Erdahl, "we must have an early answer to a decision as to whether they (the federal government) are going to cooperate or whether they are going to have some new rules set up, because it takes from 5 to 10 years to build these projects, and we must know in advance."

Other witnesses before Cordon's subcommittee, in addition to virtually every member of Congress from the Northwest, included officials of the Coos-Curry Electric Cooperatives Inc.—Ivan C. Laird of Situm, Fred Adams of Ophir and Charles W. Brooks of Coquille—seeking funds for the Alvey-Elk Head-Riddle and Nickel Mountain-Norway transmission lines; Glen R. Sawyer of Eugene and William H. Cash of Oakridge, manager and director of the Lane County Electric Co-operative, on behalf of the Middle Willamette Project; Boyd Jackson and Wade Crawford, on behalf of Klamath Indians; and Hubert H. Walker, William A. Galbraith, Leon Baile and George Zahn of Washington's Columbia Basin Commission.

The result of the Senate subcommittee's hearing was that the Senate voted \$78,128,817 for the Northwest, compared to a House total of \$69,315,656. Then both houses compromised on \$71,805,817.

Included were funds for Bonneville, O&C access road construction and money for the Klamath, Columbia Basin and Yakima reclamation projects, including both the Kennewick and Rosa divisions.

Still other funds were included in unspecified amounts for national parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to carry out programs in the Northwest.

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