

DUST STORMS HIT MIDWEST

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Pelton Dam Out

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Pelton Dam on the Deschutes River in Oregon cannot be built because state agencies oppose it, the U. S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday.

This overturned a Federal Power Commission order to allow the Portland General Electric Co. to go ahead with construction of the dam.

The court said the FPC has no authority to force such a dam upon the state, if state agencies do not want it built.

"Oregon has the right to regulate its own waters in its own chosen way. We think the regulation of the river as the river flows through the state is one of the powers of states' sovereignty," the majority opinion of the court said.

It was a 2-1 vote that invalidated the FPC order for the dam construction. Judge Albert Lee Stephens and William E. Orr concurred in the ruling side.

Judge William Healy dissented, writing, "State laws or objections cannot and should not act as a legal bar to federal authorization of a power project which is within federal competence and which, in the judgment of the commission, will be in the public interest and will meet the standards specified in the federal power act for comprehensive development."

Portland General Electric won FPC approval for the project in 1951. The power company intended to build a 22 million dollar dam at the Pelton site below the confluence of the Deschutes and Metolus Rivers. There also was to have been a 12 million dollar re-regulating dam downstream, and later a 37 million dollar dam upstream at Round Butte.

The state's fish and game commission opposed the projects as being detrimental to fish runs. They asked for a rehearing. The FPC refused this. The state then appealed to the court.

The state contended the dams would block salmon and steelhead from spawning grounds and would impair the state fish hatchery on the Metolus. Further, the power company failed to get permits from the Oregon Hydroelectric Commission and did not comply with Oregon law on fish protection in the river, the state said.

The court noted that the 205-foot-high main dam was to be built on U. S. land, but ruled that Oregon has sovereignty over the waters there. This was established by Congress in the Desert Lands Act of 1877, the court said.

"Undoubtedly the commission has a legal right to give its approval to the project as a whole and we do not doubt that it has the right to grant its permissive license to the construction of a proposed dam."

"But the commission has issued no mere permissive license. It has issued a license purporting to grant the complete legal right to the construction and operation of the whole project. In this, we think, it has exceeded its legal jurisdiction in that the ownership of the power dam site does not empower the U. S. government to use the water of the Deschutes River either at the site of the power dam or elsewhere, contrary to Oregon laws."

"It is our opinion that the commission has entrenched upon the sovereignty of the state of Oregon," the majority opinion said.

So. Korea Denounces Geneva Meet

SEOUL (AP)—South Korea tonight angrily denounced the Big Four agreement to hold a Korean peace conference in Geneva and declared it "cannot give anyone a blank check" to write a peace treaty.

The ROK government, in its first official reaction to the decision reached in Berlin, called it "unjust and incompatible with the Korean armistice agreement."

However, government spokesman Kim Hong Ki did not rule out eventual South Korean participation in a political conference on terms agreed to by the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia at Berlin yesterday.

Although highly critical of the Big Four action, nowhere in his 400-word statement did Kim say South Korea will refuse to attend the April conference.

"There are good reasons to be highly suspicious of the whole proposal," Kim said.

He charged the Berlin statement could be looked on as giving Communist China "a special invitation to become one of the principal powers—creating in effect, a Big Five meeting that is designed to permit the Republic of Korea to attend its own peace conference."

"The indication is the Big Four communicate that this does not constitute recognition of Communist China is difficult to reconcile with the usual practices of international law."

In effect, the proposed conference at Geneva is fundamentally incompatible with the Korean armistice agreement which provides for a conference between the belligerents."

Karl also repeated that South Korea "can never accept any settlement" that does not unify Korea and provide for "expulsion of the Chinese Communists" from the North.

Coast Highway Closed By Slide
SALEM (AP)—The Oregon Coast Highway was closed Friday, for the third time this winter, by a slide at Jetty Creek, north of Rockaway in Tillamook County.

A detour, 14 miles long, is available via the Miami River Road.

The Highway Commission also said that chains are required because of packed snow on the road from Government Camp to Timberline Lodge, and on the East Diamond Lake Highway.

Beck Accused By Unionist

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—A deposed officer of the Yakima, Wash., Teamsters' Union local denied a hearing at the AFL union's executive board meeting here, has threatened to carry his "dictator" charges against Dave Beck into court.

Martin Crouse, secretary of the Yakima local before the Teamsters' president placed it in trusteeship last month, said Thursday night his attempt to bring formal charges against Beck before the board was "our final step before going to court."

"Our members want their local back in their own hands—we want to run it like it should be run," Crouse flew here from Yakima hoping to make a personal appearance at the executive board meeting.

Before Crouse arrived, however, Beck told reporters the board would not be able to hear the Yakima unionist because of a crowded schedule.

Crouse contends Beck violated the union constitution in investing union funds and has called for his ouster as president. He said he also wanted to tell the board of Beck's "dictatorial" action in placing the local in trusteeship without resolving charges of financial irregularities Crouse has brought against the local's officers.

Crouse said Thursday night he will try to talk to some of the union's international vice presidents before returning to Yakima. "And if they won't talk to me, then we'll know where we stand,"

Weather
FORECAST—Klamath Falls and vicinity: Partly cloudy Saturday with high of 38; low Friday night 32.

High yesterday 31
Low last night 25
Precip last 24 hours .63
Since Oct. 1 16.69
Same period last year 16.48
Normal for period 7.73

Dairyman Files Slander Suit
PORTLAND (AP)—A slander suit for \$10,500 damages from the state milk marketing administrator was filed here Thursday by Elmer Deetz, the Canby dairyman who is fighting state milk control.

The circuit court suit accused the administrator, William W. Weidel, of making untrue and damaging statements against Deetz in a speech before a dairy group at Albany, Feb. 9.

The complaint quoted Weidel as saying Deetz could not get a license to sell milk until he "cleans up his establishment," and that Deetz is "being used by powerful interests in the battle to abolish Oregon's milk control laws."

Deetz, who has been selling milk in gallon jugs at his farm to cash-and-carry customers, contends that state control of milk marketing is illegal.

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President Appoints Group To Study Traffic Deaths

WASHINGTON (AP)—A newly created President's Action Committee for Highway Safety Friday assumed the guidance of a nationwide campaign to reduce the automobile death toll.

Gov. Dan Thornton of Colorado, one of the eight members so far named, called the President's action "the greatest forward step in years" toward reducing the hazards of the highways.

For the first time, Thornton said, the permanent advisory group will provide a "direct line of coordination from the White House to the grass-roots efforts of the communities."

Vice President Nixon announced Eisenhower's action late Thursday to the White House Conference on Highway Safety. Nixon said the

President was "vitaly interested" in the accident problem which cost 38,300 lives last year. But Nixon added:

"This is a problem which must be solved on Main Street instead of Pennsylvania Avenue. The federal government can give support and leadership but local officials have to do the real job."

The reports of seven conference task forces were presented to Nixon by the representatives of business, labor, public officials, agriculture, information media, civic and fraternal organizations, and women's groups.

"Crusade for Safety" theme, to be built around the signing of individual safety pledges by drivers and pedestrians in every city where sponsors can be found emerged from the media group. It represents newspapers and magazines, television and radio broadcasting, moving pictures and advertising.

Other recommendations drafted by the task forces included:

1. That the 48 governors consider the calling of governors' "conferences" in their states, to mobilize safety efforts in the pattern of the White House meetings each year.

2. That state highway police personnel be built up.

3. That safety education be expanded in elementary and high schools, including driving course.

Navy, Air Guard Test Bomb Area

PEARL HARBOR (AP)—Tough little destroyer escorts today patrol the Pacific west of the H-bomb proving grounds on a 24-hour alert.

They watch the skies and plumb the ocean depth with electronic eyes, alert for any strange submarines—or—in the words of an officer—any "unusual activity by hostile parties" to set up shop "on the islands."

These sea patrols are closely allied with air patrols sweeping the skies from the Marshalls to Japan. The patrols go on all the time, but now with hints of impending H-bomb tests at Eniwetok, their presence is of even more significance.

Having just returned from one of these sea patrols, I can say that there is more than the usual alertness among the radar and sonar crews.

Everyone in the Pacific is tight-lipped about the test, which soon may explode the world's most awesome weapon.

Officers shudder if the word "atom" comes up in casual conversation. You hear this from top officers on down: "I don't know anything about it and I don't want to."

The air lanes around Eniwetok are so strictly regulated that no civilian planes are allowed and the only military planes going there are those specifically ordered.

A strengthened force of long-range planes, based at Kwajalein, maintains special patrols for the upcoming tests.

Klamath Basin Potato Shipments

Shipped Today	Same Day Last Year
64 cars	46 cars
Total for season	
1953-54 7547 cars	1952-53 8449 cars

Weathermen Warn Of Tornadoes

AMARILLO, Tex. (AP)—Choking black clouds of dust engulfed sections of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas and Colorado Friday.

Visibility was cut to zero in the Texas Panhandle and street lights had to be turned on.

The turbulence accompanied a Western cold front that moved across the states. Tornado alerts were issued for sections of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

In this Texas Panhandle city street lights cast wan gleams through the black pall that shut out the sun. Cars and buses nosed cautiously along streets and highways, headlights stabbing feebly into the dust. Airplanes were grounded.

Meanwhile, thunderstorms raged in north Texas.

The dust swirled into the Texas Panhandle from Colorado and Kansas, where businessmen at Garden City shoveled dirt off their sidewalks like they do heavy snow.

The black dustier headed south at a 35-mile-an-hour clip and was expected to reach the Mexican border by Friday night or Saturday morning.

Gusts up to 65 miles an hour marked its southward sweep.

The dust storm also blacked out Borger, Dumas, Perryton, Clarendon, Lubbock and Plainview in Texas.

Schools were closed at Stratford, 87 miles north of Amarillo. An Amarillo reporter said: "We're in a complete blackout. Street lights are on, and cars are barely creeping. It's like midnight."

Forecasters in Amarillo said the sky should clear and wind diminish about sundown.

The situation was similar in Oklahoma. Schools at Boise City, Beaver and Guymon were closed. Visibility at Guymon was zero. Motorists were warned to stay off highways. While the Oklahoma Panhandle was choked with dust, the rest of the state got rains.

The Weather Bureau at New Orleans said a few tornadoes from McAlester, Okla., to Little Rock, Ark., and 75 miles on either side. Up to 11 a.m., however, no twisters had been reported.

Reds Disrupt Italy's Senate

ROME (AP)—A divided and angry senate opened debate Friday on Premier Mario Scelba's pro-Western program. A heavily armed 2,500-man police force stood guard against possible Communist agitation.

Riot police and carabinieri (national police) blocked off all traffic in a 10-block area around the Palazzo Madama senate building.

The precaution was taken in the wake of violent Communist scenes in both the senate and chamber of deputies Thursday night when the Red-hating Scelba presented the program of his 18-day-old government to parliament. The chamber session broke up when Communist and fellow-traveling Socialist deputies walked out.

The opening of Friday's senate session was tense, but calm.

Earlier in the day Communist-led labor had work throughout Italy for 10 minutes in protest against what it called the "inexcusable methods of force" used by Scelba's riot police in breaking up Red-led demonstrations during the past several days.

There were no disorders during the strike.



AN EARLY DAY STAGECOACH with a full load on top, but no identification to date. The picture was submitted by Dr. A. A. Soule, who found it while rummaging around in some old papers the other day.

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