

Water Group
(Continued from page 1)

"The senators' letter did not come to our organization as a great shock, since it followed the usual line of expression that the two writers take in their regular public statements. They start out with a half truth, and by skillful wording twist matters around until the meaning given is an entire untruth. The senators' letter begins 'There is considerable concern and opposition in Oregon to the contract. . . . Actually, the only people in Oregon interested in the proposed contract are those in the Upper Klamath Basin, which lies almost wholly in Klamath County, Oregon, and in Siskiyou and Modoc counties in California. In this Basin there are only about 50,000 people. Very few persons outside the Basin have heard of this contract, or know or care anything about it. Yet senators Morse and Neuberger say 'considerable . . . in Oregon.' It makes a bigger story that way."

"In the second paragraph, the senators continue, 'The department has sprung the contract upon interested parties . . . without adequate time . . . In paragraph six: 'There has not been . . . sufficient time to study the impact of the contract upon irrigation, power rates, municipal and industrial use and Indian interests. . . .'

"The meaning interpreted is that people in the Basin were entirely ignorant of this contract until the power company, quite recently, began to shove it down their throats, when, as a matter of fact, our Water Users Association has been studying the contract for more than two years, has discussed it with Copco officials and with the Department of the Interior, submitted, a year ago, a draft of a contract of its own, and last month sent in suggested changes for what appeared to be the draft of the final contract."

"We will admit that it would have been better to have given us until October 1, 1955, to make our suggested changes, but we were familiar with the subject, and we think our proposed contract, if approved, is for the best interests of the community. It is the belief of our association, that its board knows more about Klamath Basin water and the Copco contract than do the Oregon senators."

"Paragraph three of the senators' letter states 'The Klamath Basin Water Users Protective Association protests that the contract does not provide protection for Upper Basin water users' rights.' It is hard to understand the last three words of the statement, but if the users' water rights are meant, we believe that has been taken care of. A statement in paragraph six of the proposed contract is: 'No Klamath Basin Water shall be used by Copco when it may be needed or required by the United States or any irrigation or drainage district, person or association for use for domestic, or municipal, or irrigation purposes. . . .'

"The Water Users feel this clause in a contract with a private corporation is a much better protection for the individuals' water rights than under many completely federal projects. This is explained by Frank B. Horne, American Law Division of the Legislative Reference Service, in a memorandum in answer to questions about the proposed Hell's Canyon Project, which the senators carefully mention in their letter. In which his conclusion is that if there is insufficient downstream flow, the Congress may require the release of waters from above for downstream projects which have been constructed by the federal government. This conclusion is based on applicable court decisions. Rights protected in a signed contract with a private corporation can be protected in the courts. Otherwise, rights may be granted by the Congress, but the Congress may also take them away."

"The Oregon senators in paragraph four state: ' . . . there are objections that the contract does not even permit, let alone provide for, power rate reductions to local users. . . . This leads one to believe that the senators either do not know what they are talking about or are purposely leaving the whole story somewhat clouded in order to create sentiment against their great power octopus."

"Actually the old contract gave a pumping rate of seven mills to users who were in irrigation or drainage districts which were under contract with the government, or to individuals in the same status. The proposed new contract reduces this rate to six mills."

"The Klamath Basin Water Users Protective Association believes that if the Department has the power to grant reduced rates to users under contract with the government, it has the same authority to give the same rate to all water users, which is the point our association is raising with the secretary. However, this is quite different from the statement of the senators that no power rate reductions are considered."

"Our association is not writing this in opposition to its own requests for changes in the proposed contract. We wish to get the record true and straight. We believe our gains can be made without any sneer, pressure, or politics. We are not asking for a hearing before your committee on interior and insular affairs. We feel that this is not necessary; and also, it would be too expensive a proposition for some of us to have to appear in Washington. However, if some of our wishes are not granted, we think there should be a hearing before the secretary, such a hearing to be held here in Klamath Falls, on our own home grounds."

"The minor changes in the contract as drafted on August 5, 1955, which we are suggesting are:

- "1. To broaden the definition of 'Project Land' to include all irrigable land in the Klamath Basin.
- "2. To extend the reduced pumping rates to all water users in the Klamath Basin.
- "3. To reject a paragraph in the proposed contract which 'limits the generation of power to Copco.'
- "4. To include the transfer of all easements to levees, dikes, flowage, etc., to the United States at the end of the 50 year period.

"Respectfully yours,
Klamath Basin Water Users Protective Association
John L. Stewart Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer"

Quotes From The News
By UNITED PRESS

Archie Moore after being knocked out by heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano in the ninth round of their title fight: "There's no sense in making excuses. . . . He's a great fighter."

Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn) in Belgrade, lauding Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito as an ally who might be useful in lessening world tension: "My firm impression is that Marshal Tito is a dependable ally, and that he can be of some use in the lessening of world tension considering improved relations between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union."


A British airline spokesman explaining to a London newspaper why the airline charges one-third more for a pack of British cigarettes than an Italian airline: "We make more profit."

Rocky Marciano, after he knocked out contender Archie Moore to retain his world heavyweight champion title: "My mother and my wife are urging me to retire, strongly. I'm not saying I will retire though. I just don't know."

Rep. Osher L. Burdick (R-ND) charging in Washington that military service survival schools are a senseless product of "midget minds": "I presume the next test will be to bury the soldier alive and keep a time watch to ascertain how long it will be before he ceases to breathe."

Ivan Wiles general manager of the Buick Division of General Motors Corp., speaking at a press preview of the 1956 Buick in Flint, Mich., where he revealed that 1955 auto sales were even higher than optimistic predictions and expected to be still higher next year: "We just haven't been able to comprehend what is happening in the dynamic growth of this country."

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