

**Morty Meekle**



**YOUR CONGRESSMAN SAYS**

by Rep. Sam Coon  
2nd District

The Colorado River project bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 256 to 130. I voted for it because I believe that it contributes to our economic progress by a further development of our natural resources. The bill omits the controversial Echo Park Dam in Colorado.

In addition to providing electric power, the project provides for the reclamation of about 131,000 acres over a 10-year period and supplemental water for 243,000 acres. Critics of the bill argued that, with our present crop surpluses, we do not need this land. I agree that we do not need it now. However, by the time the project is completed, it may prove very useful. Our population is increasing rapidly and our surpluses may not be permanent.

An amendment was included in the bill to provide that certain crops now in surplus such as wheat, may not be grown on reclaimed land on the project for a 10-year period.

I strongly support the bills before Congress to strengthen the position of our Western states so that they will have full and complete control of their waters without any usurpation by the federal government.

State laws in Oregon, and other Western states, have governed the use of waters on federal land. Congress and the federal courts have recognized our system of water rights. The whole economic structure of many of our counties are based on them.

Recent federal court decisions have changed the concepts of our water rights. I think we need corrective legislation to stop this.

The Budget bills in the House and the Barrett Bill in the Senate are designed to prevent the federal encroachment on our water rights. I am in favor of them, and I plan to testify for them.

I had a talk with Agriculture Secretary Benson last week on the wheat situation. I spoke in favor of the two-price wheat proposal—partly for wheat sold for human consumption in the United States, market price for that sold abroad or used for livestock feed.

Secretary Benson told me that he thought more education and a wider understanding of the plan were needed, in order to get more support for it, so it would have a better chance of being accepted.

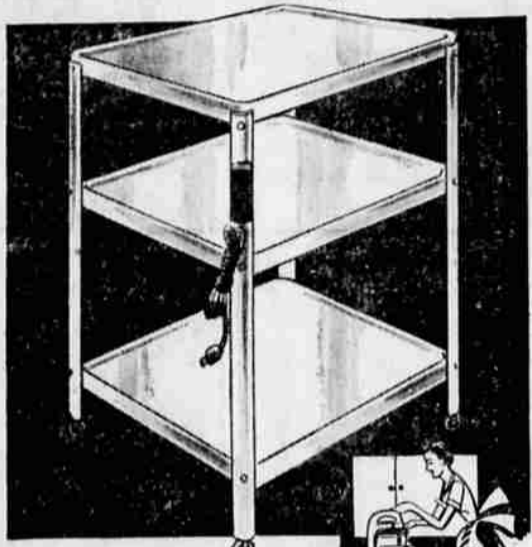
The Rural Electrification Administration has approved a loan of \$1,110,000 to the Harney Electric Cooperative at Burns. This will provide funds for 16 miles of transmission lines and 400 miles of distribution lines to connect up 350 members in Harney and Malheur counties.

A museum at The Dalles to preserve excavated relics of Indian civilization and to show the natural history of this interesting area has been proposed by the Wasco County-Dalles City Museum Commission. I am in favor of this project, which should be an attraction for tourists as well as beneficial to local residents.

University of Oregon scientists have been excavating Indian campsites which will soon be covered by the waters of the reservoir behind The Dalles Dam. They have dug down as far as 37 feet and found interesting relics dating back to 10,000 years ago.

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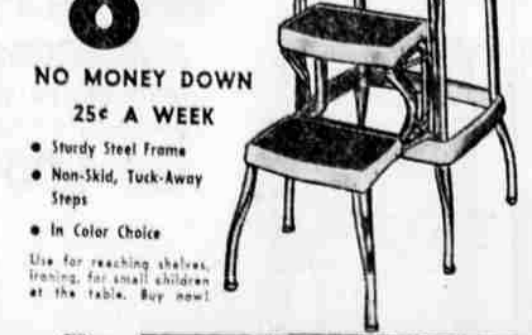
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