

BULLETIN



PACIFIC NORTHWEST DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Dedicated to work for continued resource conservation and development through the combined efforts of private enterprise, group initiative, and established government agencies.

(This information may be used with or without credit to this Association.)

WHAT IS FOR THE MOST GOOD FOR THE MOST PEOPLE FOR THE LONGEST TIME?

The Corps of Engineers, based upon its previous studies and information received at its current series of hearings on its review of HD 531 river improvement and flood control plan for the Columbia and its tributaries, will make recommendations regarding the feasibility of many projects. These recommendations, if past policies prevail, will be based not only on physical and economic features, but on the proposed project's effect on the property and human rights of those affected by its construction.

Two of the most controversial proposals under consideration at these hearings are the Paradise project on the Clarks Fork of the Columbia in western Montana, and the Nez Perce project on the Snake River below the mouth of the Salmon River. The construction of the proposed Nez Perce Dam would materially impair propagation of fish resources in the Columbia. It is, therefore, opposed by those groups who rely on this for a livelihood and for recreational purposes. Projects, including the Mountain Sheep and Pleasant Valley which the Pacific Northwest Power Company is seeking permission from the FPC for early construction on the Snake River, would have comparable storage and other benefits in addition to the power generated, and would not impair the Salmon River fish resources. This is outlined in the Corps of Engineers report as an alternate proposal for Nez Perce. Public ownership of the power industry proponents oppose the private enterprise phase of this development, and instead favor Nez Perce. There is also a strong difference of opinion on the proposed Paradise project, as on the Nez Perce. This comes not only from those directly affected, but as in the Hells Canyon controversy, is much larger in scope. On the proposed Paradise project the property and human rights that would be affected if the project was constructed would involve many citizens. Approximately 3,500 people would be flooded out, including several towns with their businesses and industries, and also farms on good agricultural land. (See enclosed information.)

In the Pacific Northwest it has been the policy of the Corps of Engineers, and most of the other Federal agencies, to recommend for construction only the federal projects that are wanted by a vast majority of the people and upon which there is not substantial objection. When objections from many people vitally affected occur, it has been the policy not to impose infractions upon human and property rights, but to revise project development plans. This policy has applied to such important proposed projects as Sweet Home and Quartz Creek on the Willamette, Z Canyon, and others. Following later studies and hearings by the Corps of Engineers, even the planned height of the proposed John Day Dam was reduced to cut the reservoir capacity from 2,000,000 acre feet, to 500,000 acre feet because of the adverse effect it would have on the people and the economy of the area that would be flooded. The construction of the Paradise project and the flooding out of the economy of that area would be far more damaging than on many projects upon which plans have heretofore been revised. This applies also to Nez Perce in a somewhat different but damaging way. It is hoped the Corps of Engineers will continue their fair and democratic policy established in this area in making project recommendations. This policy, which also carries out the letter and spirit of the 1944 Flood Control Act, has won for them the cooperation, confidence, and respect of all fair minded people of this area, in carrying forward flood control and river improvement plans. If, on the other hand, the Paradise project is constructed as advocated by public ownership proponents who repeatedly claim that flooding out large segments of our economy and thus depriving the people of their property and human rights is for the greater good of all the people for a longer time, then the federal government could, by such a policy, make vast storage reservoirs out of the shore lands of Flathead, Pend Oreille, Coeur d'Alene, and other lakes in the Columbia watershed area. No citizens property or human rights in these areas would be safe. It is far more important, and is for the greater good for the most people for a longer time to preserve our property and human rights which include our productive private enterprise economy and our freedom, than it is to plan our nation further into a public ownership economy. Our River Improvement and Flood Control Program can go forward on a sound basis through the combined and cooperative effort of private enterprise group initiative and established government agencies. This is the kind of program our Association supports. Much reliable information is available on the subject.

(OVER)

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"OUR BILL." THIS IS ANOTHER ONE THAT NEEDS CAREFUL STUDY

A copy of a proposed Senate Interior Committee Print bill marked January 1958, apparently ready for introduction in the forthcoming second session of the 85th Congress, has been called to our attention. It is referred to as "Our Bill" by the promoters of the Paradise project. This bill merits careful study. If passed by Congress it would appropriate \$5,000,000 to hire a federal administrator at \$15,000 a year, and use up to \$5,000,000 to finance the promotion of the construction of the Paradise project on the Clarks Fork of the Columbia River in western Montana by the Department of Interior. The estimated cost of this project, according to Army Engineer Corps figures is \$450,000,000, exclusive of irrigation development costs, on an estimated 60,500 acres of land near the proposed reservoir site. The practicality of irrigation and cost of which has not as yet been fully determined. A soil survey indicates soil quality is poor. In providing storage for 4,080,000 acre feet of water the project would flood out 71,500 acres of land, a good portion of which is devoted to well established agricultural usage, several communities and their businesses and industries, including 85 miles of railroad, much of which could not be feasibly relocated. The per KW cost of at site and down stream benefits of power development is very high. The \$5,000,000 would also be used to pay taxes to local governments on property that is flooded out for such period of time until the tax base returns to normal. It would also be spread around in other ways to promote support for the project and ineffect buy off opposition. There is strong objection to this proposed project by local property owners and many others who advocate in lieu of it, that other storage sites where damage would be much less be utilized. The danger of establishing a precedent whereby federal appropriations from tax payers are made to pay local promotion costs to construct high cost projects, if carried out generally throughout the nation would complete the job of bankrupting our nation, and result in economic collapse in a relatively short time. Heretofore, people who wanted project development in their area have done the necessary promotional work even to the creating of irrigation or other types of districts, and leveeing assessments to cover the cost of much of this promotion work. There are other features in this proposed legislation that are departures from well tested procedures. This measure should be studied carefully, and views presented to those who will pass on it in Congress. Watch for the Paradise project bill when Congress reconvenes. Get a copy of the Committee Print Bill that is being circulated by promoters of the Paradise project.

STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN. SEE WHAT SWEDEN HAS DONE

With so many of us here in America claiming to be strong for the preservation of productive private enterprise, while at the same time actively promoting a public ownership economy in one form or another, we need to stop, look, and listen. Before we move further toward a public ownership economy, and before our productive private enterprise system is confiscated in this great country of ours as it has been in others, it is respectfully urged that we take time to find out what the public ownership of business economy has done to other countries. An excellent summarization of this is contained in the August, September, and October National Program Letters. These reports, made by a very reliable agency, include Norway, Sweden, France, Netherlands, and Belgium. For your information, we enclose the report on Sweden, a country that was not involved in either World War and thus not plagued with a heavy war debt, but on the other hand, profited a great deal by supplying warring countries, over a substantial period of time, with goods and materials. Sweden is also a country that welfare state socialist advocates point to as a model type of economy. If this type of statism is successful, Sweden should have very high living standards. Since we are going the same route as these countries, we hope you will also get copies of the reports on the other countries contained in the August and October National Program Letters. For copies of these reports, write Dr. George S. Benson, Director, National Education Program, Searcy, Arkansas. Our American Economic system and our form of government has demonstrated that we have something better for all the people than the public ownership economy method. Yet the forces that are promoting the latter method, while claiming to be for our productive private enterprise system are, by encroaching methods, doing a better job of selling the public ownership system to the masses than are those that actually believe in our American economic system. We need more people who have the ability to sell this system which has provided more job, goods, markets, and higher living standard opportunities to our own people than any other known method. If we can not do a better job of explaining this from the grass roots up, we will, in the course of a few years, be the victims of a public ownership welfare political machine dictatorship.

Daniel B. Noble
Secretary-Manager