U. S.-Canada Treaty Provisions Explained

Here are the major provisions of the proposed treaty between the United States and Canada to provide for development of the upper Columbia river:

1. Construction of three storage projects in Canada totaling 15,500,000 acre feet within 10 years with costs to be borne by Canada. These projects would be at the outlet of Arrow lakes and at Mica Creek on the Columbia and at the outlet of Duncan lake in the Kootenay river basin.

2. The United States could build its proposed Libby dam with its reservoir extending on the Kootenai 42 miles into Canada. Canada would make the lands available and prepare its portion of the reservoir without cost to the United States. This project must be started within five years after ratification of the treaty, or we lose the option.

3. The United States would pay Canada $64,000,000 for one-half the flood control benefits derived on this side of the border over the 60-year life of the treaty.

4. The proposed treaty would prohibit any diversion of water out of the Columbia river basin. After 20 years, however, Canada could divert 1,500,000 acre feet from the Kootenay to the Columbia (at Canal Flat) provided the flow of the Kootenay is not reduced below 200 cubic feet per second or the natural flow which ever is the lesser.

5. Power benefits derived downstream in the United States would be shared 50-50 with Canada.

6. Canada's share of the power would be delivered to the border near Oliver, B. C., at United States expense.

7. Each country would name an "operating entity" to carry out the provisions of the treaty.

8. The treaty would be in effect for a minimum of 60 years from ratification and will continue unless at any time after 50 years one country gives the other a 10-year notice of termination.

There are other provisions having to do with the method of refiguring power benefits every five years and flood benefits after the original 60-year life of the treaty.