

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

April 16, 1955

Between A. B. Curtis and Len Jordan, Chairman  
United States Section  
International Joint Commission  
Washington, D. C.

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Mr. Curtis: Hello, Len?

Mr. Jordan: Bert, how are you?

Mr. Curtis: Fine, Len, how the devil are you?

Len: Well, I'm fine. I wanted to tell you that you did a good job there with those Hells Canyon hearings. I want to ask you what you think about our two Clearwater dams now, Bert. How do they look?

Mr. Curtis: They look awfully good, Len.

Mr. Jordan: I mean as far as opposition, wildlife opposition, etc.

Mr. Curtis: It is pretty well quieted down, Len. It is recognized throughout the country here that the wildlife people have oversold their case and they don't have a leg to stand on.

Mr. Jordan: Among my other chores here, I am planner here around with this development thing. Bert I think that we will try and get those two Clearwater dams split away from the Middle Snake - Pleasant Valley, Mountain Sheep. You know those all came out in one report. The Bureau of Reclamation would like to hang on to the Army and send them all up together. But we have been trying to get them split off because they are entirely different. Those Clearwater dams are for storage, flood control and these other running rivers. I think I've got those private utilities very much interested in the Middle Snake. They are also interested in the Clearwater Dam if we can get them on a partnership basis. But the non-reimbursables are a good deal higher on the Clearwater and I think what we will have to do is to get them authorized because anything that the Federal Government goes into on any kind of a percentage basis has to be authorized. I think that if we could get the Department of Interior to hold the bill we will try and get those Clearwater Dams, a bill set up to authorize. Then we will try and work out a partnership program with them so that some local sponsor, maybe that group of utilities, will take care of the part allocated for power and let the government stand the budget control basis of it. How does that sound?

Bert: That sounds wonderful, Len. In other words it would be a partnership that could come along a year or so afterwards, couldn't it?

Mr. Jordan: Yes, some time afterwards. There is no harm done in getting these dam authorized, if there is going to be a battle about them we might just as well get that over with and we can talk partnership later on. See what I mean?



Mr. Curtis: I think that is the right approach.

Mr. Jordan: Because, Bert, if there is some different money in any part of it we have to go through the authorization procedure.

Mr. Curtis: Well, Len, the utilities would pay for the cost of falling water at a fixed price arranged by agreement at a later date, wouldn't they?

Mr. Jordan: Yes, that is to be worked up. They have got one partnership deal they are trying to work up down on the Trinity project in California where the utilities pay for the falling water. We probably, and this is confidential, we will probably have a bill going in here on John Day down where the utilities actually put up about 88% of the cost. They just get a 50 year contract for all the power plant produces. You see they don't own the plant in anytime. So there is lots of ways to work, depending on what percent is determined to be allocated in for power and what percent is non-reimbursed. But in any case I want you to know what we are working at here, so you wouldn't be caught flat-footed and you have done such a whale of a good job on this thing, I just wanted to be sure that that would be alright with your thinking.

Mr. Curtis: It certainly would be, Len, It is just fine. I've talked to Kinsey about this quite a bit and he is very hopeful that we can get something going. And, of course, I talked to Henry a little bit out here last week and he doesn't know what is going to happen but he sure hopes that something can get underway.

Mr. Jordan: Well, I talked to him or gave my influence and he wanted to just turn one of them. Well my thinking is that the one of them will draw just as much fire as the two of them will together.

Mr. Curtis: Well, I think so, of course, we will have a lot more resistance on Penny Cliffs, that's recognized but we will have to start both to get one. I think that is the right stragedy all the way through. Well I am sure awfully glad that you hadn't forgotten us, I knew you hadn't.

Mr. Jordan: Well, the white house put me on this special job, I mean to get the project going out there. Now that's confidential. But I knew how your interest was and I'm working at it all my spare time.

Mr. Curtis: Well thank heavens we have somebody back there that will do the leg work for us.

Mr. Jordan: Well I did want to talk to you and see if this thing was eye to eye because we always have been. I sure will have to have your help when we get to going on it.

Mr. Curtis: Len, you can rest assured that everybody in North Idaho is right down the line on this. You know at our hearing here we had all the mining industry, big and small farmers, state grange and everybody on our side.

Mr. Curtis

- 3 -

Mr. Jordan

Mr. Jordan: You did the finest job up there.

Mr. Curtis: I suppose you have read all the accounts of it.

Mr. Jordan: I got the Lewiston paper and got the whole business. I had some telephone reports too.

Mr. Curtis: Well of course, that raised their stock to beat the dickens on the Clearwater development.

Mr. Jordan: Well that is fine, Bert. I am going to see what I can do and I will keep you informed.

Mr. Curtis: Yes, keep me advised, I will be calling you next week sometime and I am going over to Dallas Monday but I will be back the latter part of the week and I may give you a ring. I suppose it will be a week or so to get things underway.

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