

MEMORANDUM

Conversation between A. B. Curtis and Henry Dworshak

June 23, 1955

Dworshak: I suppose it will pass in the Senate because the Senators over here want it. It simply authorizes the Trinity Dam and this is the Bureau of Reclamation instead of the Army Engineers which would be about the same thing and provides money for survey and engineering work, and a year from now when the Engineers make their report - then it will be determined whether it will be built on the partnership plan or not. I called the Whitehouse yesterday morning, I called Jordan this morning and I said now I have been telling you fellows let the Engineers go ahead instead of holding up the whole procession and then a year from now determine how you want the power facilities built. That is what they are doing on this Trinity. Now, I said all you have to do is to apply the same yard stick to Bruce's Eddy as they used at Trinity, you're not doing that. I understand that they have got their heads together and this morning I was told they had a conference this morning to try to work out some compromise on Bruce's Eddy. Now I don't know what it will be or who is handling it or anything else, but I'm not the one that is holding up the procession. The Administration, Jordan and these people are the ones that are doing it. I don't know when you are going to get a dam if ever. I wanted to move in and get you a dam. They apparently don't want one. Now maybe after the election next year if the republicans win control of Congress why then maybe there will be a change in that situation but if they have more democrats in the Senate than the house has in the next years election they won't build a straight Federal dam.

Mr. Curtis: Maybe forty years more according to that.

Dworshak: Oh they will build you one, but it will be a straight federal dam.

Mr. Curtis: Well a Federal dam wouldn't do us any good here.

Dworshak: Well I didn't say that it would. I am not one of those who says that. The democrats if they are in control of Congress will vote to go ahead and build it.

Mr. Curtis: The philosophy of a partnership dam is to get more local taxes.

Dworshak: I am for you on that - I think it is good. When they get John Day bill through, you know they got one on that- was introduced months and months ago - and when they get that through then we are going to move right in on them and use the same plan on Bruce's Eddy.

Mr. Curtis: Do you think that is the best, most feasible way to work it?

Dworshak: No I don't, but if they don't get through John Day on the partnership plan we won't get it through your's either.

Mr. Curtis: You don't think ours will stand any better chance than John Day?

Dworshak: Not as good, the army engineers say that the Bruce's Eddy is a flood control dam while this John Day there is not any flood control. It

is just a straight power dam and it lends itself to the partnership plan very well. General Sturges said that because Bruce's Eddy is a flood control dam basically it doesn't lend itself to a partnership plan. If you can't get through John Day which is ideal how can you get through Bruce's Eddy which is not ideal. It is just as simple as that. Somebody is careless with the truth out there, I don't know who is feeding you this bolony. You tell them to send some of that bolony back here and after I eat enough of it I can fall in line. These democrats are running the show. Now we were lucky on Hells Canyon this morning, we had the vote, we won over long on the committee to vote against the high dam. When they found out they couldn't hold him in line after we debated for more than two hours Senator Anderson acting chairman everybody was there except the Chairman Murrey from Montana who is overseas - Geneva and won't be back until July 1st -- when they saw they couldn't report out the high Hells Canyon dam why they didn't take a vote so Hells Canyon failed to get action. They haven't killed it, it just is that they didn't get a roll call--couldn't take action. It just means as Chairman Anderson told me about an hour ago, they probably wouldn't take action on it this session. Now I think, that you people are facing a dead line. If we get out August 1st and they say Johnson the democratic leader is doing a magnificent job, - We're going to get out - that is five weeks - so that you and I know they can't - if the bill was introduced tomorrow you couldn't get the committee to act. You say about getting the bill through. The bill immediately would go to the public works committee in the senate of which the chairman is against partnership. He is all out for public power and he is chairman - immediately he puts the bill in the pigeon hole. That is the end of it - nothing is done. You've got to get action while the democrats are running this thing at least we have to try to work out something that they want. I don't mean Federal, but I'll get you some dope on this Trinity dam and I think I will hear probably tomorrow from the Whitehouse and see what their plan is. Now I may call you up and tell you if there is any thing new. Somebody has been kidding somebody out there, Bert. I've been trying to get the Whitehouse to get some kind of a deal just like Trinity. On Trinity they are getting the authorization, getting money for the engineering and a year from now or 18 months, from now the engineers will bring in their report and before money is made available to start construction, there will be an agreement reached as to the generating facilities of the project - who will do what. Then Congress would make the determination but in the mean time Trinity is being authorized and getting money for engineering work and it is not standing still. That is what I want to do up at Bruce's Eddy and then give you fellows 12 or 18 months to work out a partnership plan.

Mr. Curtis: Well that would be wonderful.

Dworshak: But the Administration will not go along on it, unless they held this meeting today. I told them that I only want the same treatment for Bruce's Eddy that they are giving Trinity. I said I don't want discrimination. But don't get excited about what is going to happen because of the chairman of the public works committee in the senate. He does care because he is going to do what the democratic party here wants. You don't know how cold blooded we are here - we live in a frigid zone here.

Mr. Curtis: Well, Henry, our spirits have been built up pretty high here. Jordan called me last week and said that everything looked mighty fine. He said he had a bill pretty well proff-read, had laid it on your desk, had General Steven's approval of it and that the Director of the Bureau of the Budget had o.k.ed and the bill had been pretty well drawn.

Dworshak: The Budget Director has no votes up here in Congress.

Mr. Curtis: I know, of course, he hasn't. We thought we were going to get somewhere.

Dworshak: You are, but it may take a year or two, three or five.

Mr. Curtis: Of course, we feel that we should take every opportunity and try our best to get it through, especially if we can.

Dworshak: Well it is just as I told the Administration, but they don't seem to appreciate that.

Mr. Curtis: Well something has got to happen to stir them up I guess.

Dworshak: We should run Jordan for the senate so he can get that stuff through.

Mr. Curtis: Well he may have a chance if Herman don't come along.

Dworshak: Isn't Herman going to do well.

Mr. Curtis: Well it don't look too good around here confidentially.

Dworshak: Now don't get too discouraged on what I have told you. I have been a little harsh in what I have said but I don't want to build up hopes here. Wouldn't you rather have me tell you the truth than have Jordan build your hopes up and then find out that you are living in a dream world?

Mr. Curtis: Well, Henry, I sure want you to tell us the truth, of course, we all have such a tremendous amount of faith in you that we kind of look to you back there as being the top of the hold deal.

Dworshak: Well I appreciate that - I have been talking to the Whitehouse at least two or three times a week trying to knock their heads together trying to get action this session. Now that is the way I felt a while ago, I started in on this in March so we could get action in this session. We have five weeks to go now - you can't get much done up here introducing a bill in five weeks. We may do it, if the administration calls me up tomorrow, I'll call you up - I'll check with them and tell you exactly what they say.

Mr. Curtis: Call me collect Henry.

Dworshak: I'll call you - I'll try to get a report tomorrow or Saturday morning - will you be there Saturday.

Mr. Curtis - Yes.

Dworshak: I wished I could go with you on that trip. I have a bunch of money I would like to give you.

Curtis: Well I will put on a special trip when you get out here. Now get in there and bump a little bit.

Mr. Curtis: You don't think ours will stand any better chance than John May?

Dworshak: Not as good, the army engineers say that the Drake's Eddy is a flood control dam while this John May there is not any flood control. Is