

CONVERSATION - MEMO

A. B. Curtis - Kinsey Robinson

March 22, 1956

Mr. Curtis: Hello Kinsey, how are you?

Mr. Robinson: Well I finally got back. I'm going back to Washington again Friday, tomorrow night and I thought I better give you a ring before I went back. What did they decide about you going back as a witness?

Mr. Curtis: Well they think I should go back. Henry thinks I should go back.

Mr. Robinson: When is that?

Mr. ~~Robinson~~ Curtis: The agenda, well I'm figuring on going back Saturday. I will leave here Saturday night from Spokane and I will be in, of course, Sunday and I am going to stay at (oh I forget the name of the hotel now) anyway we have a conference with the Department of Interior Monday and then the White House Executives, etc. on Tuesday, then the hearing before the House Committee is on Wednesday and the Senate on Thursday.

Mr. Robinson: On Wednesday and Thursday, well I will be back there Monday morning, I will be at the Mayflower Hotel and some of the rest of us will be back there because we are going to be back there on our holding company bill. They have a meeting on it Monday, then our Northwest Power conference will be on Wednesday and maybe Thursday too, maybe that is the same time.

Mr. Curtis: Well that is the same thing, Wednesday must be a House committee.

Mr. Robinson: Well fine, I'll probably be there both days then.

Mr. Curtis: Well that is fine. I'm just a little mixed up on this Herb West thing a little bit. In talking the thing over with him he says well now you fellows go along up there on this partnership you haven't got a chance. I said well there isn't any use in me going back unless I can express the opinion of the people here in Idaho. He said you should do that through indirect testimony. Just what does he mean by indirect testimony.

Mr. Robinson: I don't know what he means, you would almost have to mention it in your direct testimony or you wouldn't get a chance to get any questions in.

Mr. Curtis: That is right - that is what I want to do - that is what I'm going to do. There is no object in me going back, there is nothing there for us if we can't get something here of a tax base for the people of the State of Idaho.

Mr. Robinson: That is right, I certainly would do it right in my direct testimony.

Mr. Curtis: Well I certainly will. He wants me to endorse the Ice Harbor deal which is alright. Let them have it if they want it. They want something on flood control, navigation and Green Peter, Cougar and John Day project - those are all fine, of course, we are in favor of all this development. But when it comes down to Idaho why we want something to say in how it is developed. And that is just what I want to say and that is what I'm going to do, and I'm going to take that bill of ours and toss it in their lap. I'm having it printed up here. I'm having a hundred copies of it printed and I'm going to pass it to everyone of them.

Pontland

Mr. Robinson: Good - now on John Day, you know, both the General Pacific and ourselves have offered to put up the money except the non-reimbursable, that is put up \$273 million out of 310 million and I think Ice Harbor is what they want. On Green Peter and Cougar and John Day, I would say we are all for them, we hope that they will get the maximum help out of local people. That protects you all the way around and can't hurt them. You see the City of Eugene wants to build Cougar, that is they want to build the Power plant the same as we do at Bruce Eddy and the Pacific Power and Light Company want to build the power facilities at Green Peter. And, of course, there is a bill already in Congress on John Day to permit local people to put up 273 million in power facilities and dam called the joint part of the dam and the Government only have to put up \$37 million for the navigation facilities.

Mr. Curtis: Now Kinsey isn't that John Day business authorized now for partnership.

Mr. Robinson: No it is authorized for Federal construction.

Mr. Curtis: It is on the federal construction basis?

Mr. Robinson: Yes and we are trying to get it de-authorized for the other type of construction. That is the Coon bill. You will get a lot of support from that committee. There will be one or two democrats that may kind of nick you around, but I tell you the bulk of them will be all for it.

Mr. Curtis: Well I tell you when you have to talk to a guy like this fellow Neuberger and people like that, why I don't know, ~~it~~ he is a disgrace to what he represents. Now do you have any other suggestions I should get into my prepared material here, we are going to go pretty strongly, there is some pretty strong statements here.

Mr. Robinson: No, I think that is about all. Now I tell you I'll be here at the Mayflower, you don't remember what hotel you're staying in.

Mr. Curtis: Just a second.