

Kinsey Robinson - A. B. Curtis

March 8, 1956

Mr. Robinson: Are you home now?

Mr. Curtis: Yes, I just come down to the office just for a few minutes.

Mr. Robinson: Harold Lucas called me this morning and said that the boys were kind of pressing you on coming back and doing some testifying.

Mr. Curtis: Yes, that is right.

Mr. Robinson: Well now, did I understand him right that they wanted you to testify in connection with Bruces Eddy, Penny Cliffs and The John Day.

Mr. Curtis: Yesthat is right Kinsey.

Mr. Robinson: Well now John Day now that must just be for appropriation.

Mr. Curtis: That is right, just for appropriation.

Mr. Robinson: It is already authorized. *Portland*

Mr. Curtis: Yes, now is that authorized for partnership?

Mr. Robinson: No it is authorized for Federal construction. That is the reason that the General and ourselves offered to put up the money to build the power facilities with. We offered to put up \$273,000,000 and the government put up the other \$370,000,000 which is the power secret. We would have to organize a corporation to put up the money and if we did during the 30 years we got power why we can pay back a lot more taxes to the federal government than the \$370,000,000. Now we are anxious to get that Coon bill passed so that we can put up the money. How much appropriated are they talking about now.

Mr. Curtis: Well now Kinsey, for this deal here which you are speaking of is in support of the program for Bruces Eddy, Penny Cliffs and Ice Harbor and John Day that is the entire program, of course, of the Waterways Ass'n. What they ask now is for authorization and then the same treatment of bruce's Eddy as given in the case of John Day, that is partnership features will follow afterwards.

Mr. Robinson: Well if they ever authorize them for Federal Construction without the provisions for partnership right in it, we'll never get them de-authorized for partnership, that is the trouble.

Mr. Curtis: I see.

Mr. Robinson: In other words, Bruces Eddy and Penny Cliffs ought to have a provision like that bill I sent you. In other words, that authorizes it for federal construction but gives that to work out the partnership. Now if we don't get that and they ever get them authorized for federal construction we will never get them deauthorized to work out a partnership deal. *authorization*

Mr. Curtis: Yes, well that is what is worrying me right now. That is my concern right now. Now they say that they can't get a partnership through right now and he thinks we should go through for partnership and then come around the back door for partnership later, get authorization now and get partnership later.

Mr. Robinson: You can't do it.

Mr. Curtis: You can't do it, huh?

Mr. Robinson: The only one that has been de-authorized for partnership is the Priest Rapids and it was only because the Governor and all of the private companies and the public bodies went in there together and then we darned near didn't get it through. So that I would think that as far as a private company is concerned we were going in for de-authorization - now just between you and I our friend Herb West does not want us & he does not want partnership. He wants federal construction and I will tell you one of the reasons why. I don't know whether he is on the Aluminum Co. payroll or not but he sure is sure been playing to their good. Now Kyzer Aluminum is working their heart out to get federal authorization. They want federal construction of John Day and they want it on Bruces Eddy and Penny Cliffs because that will give them Bonneville Power that many more years than they think they are going to have it now. So that there is a lot of diverted interests in this darned thing. We keep our fingers crossed on Herb all the time. He keeps telling me how he is for it, but I know what he does in the committee hearings and one thing and another and they are not good. So I would tell them that we would have no objection to going for in connection with Ice Harbor - all of us has thought that ought to be a federal job since they started it. And I would think that you could very well go along with the engineering money because they have only got \$500,000 I think for John Day and they need another million or so for engineering. But I would say right in my testimony that you would hope that the ~~xxx~~ distributors of power, public and private would put up the money to build John Day so that there would be federal money left for the dams at Bruces Eddy and Penny Cliffs and then let the distributors I wouldn't differentiate between private and public. What I would do if I were you I would say that the distributors of power in the area build the power plants, own and operate them and let the federal government own the dams at Penny Cliffs and Bruces Eddy. Because I don't think you could do it any other way. I would insist that on the authorization of it that the (I would take that bill along) and say I have a bill here that I think would do what we want done for North Idaho. And that is to give a two year period of partnership arrangement for the company to build the power plant, the power facilities, own them and that leaves the government money to spend on other dams and get the upstream storage that we really need.

Mr. Curtis: Sure, well now Kinsey if I go back there, they've been asking me to come back, and if I go back, then what I should do is put that right in my prepared material and give it to them just that way. I'm hesitant about going back. I just think that maybe I shouldn't go back. And, of course, they say that they have to have all the help that they can get to meet this wildlife situation.

Mr. Robinson: Well I would tell them that you are perfectly willing to go and help get more engineering money for John Day, then appropriation for Ice Harbor and get authorization for Penny Cliffs and Bruces Eddy with a provision for private construction of the power facilities.

Mr. Curtis: That is right.

Mr. Robinson: If they don't want you to go on that basis, then I think you would ~~xxx~~ be in trouble if you did go.

Mr. Curtis: I just can't go anyway ~~xxxx~~ with any conscious at all, I'm not that kind of a guy. They know that - they should know it. So I just think that is the way it will have to be Kinsey, but, of course, I may just go up the Creek and not go at all up there. If they want to accept it that

way that is just there is all to it now and I just wouldn't go.

Mr. Robinson: It will be a good way to put them on the spot and see where in the devil they do stand.

Mr. Curtis: Well that is what I think too. Now I don't know what Herb West is going to say. He called up yesterday again and he said that Magnuson is very much in a hurry to get this thing underway. They are going to reverse the procedure this year - they are going to start the hearing from our agency on the 26th and the week following the 26th.

Mr. Robinson: They are getting the meeting set already, huh?

Mr. Curtis: Oh, yes, the hearing date is set right now for the 26th of March. ~~W~~

Mr. Robinson: Well I think that if they are going to have meetings on those days I think, that is the understanding, I think that some of us will appear too.

Mr. Curtis: Yes, well I hope so. Now that was related to me yesterday by long distance from Washington. Magnuson called west and West called me.

Mr. Robinson: Now ^{Magnuson} Matthews is for federal construction too you know. He didn't want Priest Rapids to be on the right ~~tax~~ for a public body to build it even. He is 100% for federal construction.

Mr. Curtis: Well in my script, in presentation, I will make that statement, that is that/~~the~~ only way that we will go on it. I think then that we will leave it that way. Now after Easter they are going to have the hearings from the agencies, like the Army Engineers, etc. He said it is in reverse from the general procedure.

Mr. Robinson: Oh, they are not going to have the Army Engineers first.

Mr. Curtis: No, not first this time, they have reversed it.

Mr. Robinson: Well I think maybe you ought to go and testify whether they want you to or not, Bert. On the basis of the way you feel.

Mr. Curtis: Well maybe I will.

Mr. Robinson: Well I tell you, I will be back in Spokane on the 20th and now if there is anything I can do to help you in writing up that statement I would sure be glad to do it.

Mr. Curtis: Well that is fine, I think that is the thing. Maybe I should get the invitation for somebody else to go back there rather than from Maggie.

Mr. Robinson: Well I would put it up to them and then see what they say. If they don't want you to go, then we will find another way of getting you back there. Now I was planning on being in Florida to make a talk on Tuesday and I plan on being back in Washington on Wednesday and Thursday, and I think I will see Henry and talk to him.

Mr. Curtis: Make it a point to do that, will you? Then I'll wait until you get back. I will be here around the 20th and then on the 23 or 24th

I will have to go.

Mr. Robinson: Well I would talk to West and tell him what you are willing to do and see what he thinks about it ~~xxxx~~ in the meantime. If you can go with there support then it is even better. But I'll bet they will work like the devil to get out of that deal.

Mr. Curtis: Then it would be a good idea to bring it out. ~~xxxx~~

Mr. Robinson: Hopp to it and ~~lay~~ lay it right on the cards because you are committed that way in all of your testimony you have given and I would just lay it down cold to them and see what they want.

Mr. Curtis: Call me as soon as you get back.

Mr. Robinson: O.k.

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[Faint, illegible text from the reverse side of the page, including names like "Bruce Eddy, Penny Cliffs and The John Day" and phrases like "authorized for partnership", "Federal construction", and "money to build".]