

September 3, 1955

Sylvia Harrell
Lewiston Morning Tribune
Lewiston, Idaho

Dear Sylvia:

Friday evening you ask me to make a statement on the Bruce Eddy project for the Lewis-Clark edition of your paper being planned in October release. Not knowing how many words you would like to have for copy, I trust you will advise me should there be anything deleted.

Our groups working for the Bruce Eddy project include the Water Resources Committee of the Orofino Chamber of Commerce, the Clearwater Dams Association and various other Chamber of Commerce and many civic organizations in the region. Over sixty different groups with the membership of several thousand persons are actively supporting this project. Speaking for the water resources committee, I must say that naturally we are disappointed that Congress did not take more positive action on the Bruce Eddy project in the recent session.

Ever since the Army Corps of Engineers brought the need of Bruce Eddy to light, we have held steadfast that our best opportunity for early development lies in the partnership or cooperative approach. There are, of course, several very good reasons for this thinking. The principal ones being Clearwater County is low in valuation and in great need of a stronger tax base to support its schools, county government, etc. We feel that our water resources might in some ways be compared to other resources such as timber, mineral, agricultural resources, all of which pay their just share in taxation, in support of the local and state tax economy. The development of our water resources in the interest of others removed from the region and state would not bring tax wealth, population nor industry very appreciably to our particular county. The use of private money to join public dollars in the development of our project logically should have more rapid consideration partly due to the great demand for U. S. Treasury dollars in national defense and the many other functions of our government around the world. Competition for government money is such that a hundred years may go by without our turn for government development.

Everything we hear and learn indicates that our development must come through the cooperative approach. Dr. Pearl of the Bonneville Power Administration recently stated that \$1,000,000.00 per day must be spent for the next ten years

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to keep up in the need for kilowatts. Another statement which has been made many times by the Bonneville Power Administrator and others is that our requirements will double each ten years. A statement likewise was made several times that there are projects to the liking of both the Federal, private and cooperative interests. We feel that there are many projects which logically must be developed by the government since they are too costly for private development and lack interest by industrial groups. There are projects which industry is willing to develop and others where the cooperative or partnership approach seems the most feasible, particularly when flood control, navigation and power development all are important. In the development of these various projects comprehensive planning must not be overlooked. Logical and orderly development are important and must be carefully considered in authorization.

We feel that authorization for Bruce Eddy project should have been introduced in the last Congress and feel that the philosophy of Congress must be clarified in its thinking of water resources development. We realize that congressional action is slow. The wheels of progress are slow. With the second session of our Congress coming up in January, water resources development will be a very important topic. Our government has spent many millions of dollars on government projects down the main stem of the Columbia. These projects must have upstream storage if they are to operate efficiently. The Army Engineers have repeatedly stated that the Bruce Eddy project is of great value to them for upstream storage, one reason being is that it is nearest at hand. The Army Engineers are most anxious that this project receives favorable action at the earliest possible date. They are vitally interested in water storage. We have interest by local power companies who desire the right to join with the government for kilowatt production at Bruce Eddy. It is our feeling that all facts have been weighed, the time is ripe and that the Bruce Eddy bill is a must for the next session of Congress and it will be introduced on the partnership plan and will receive favorable action.

Trusting that you can work something out from this letter along the lines that you mentioned Friday evening.

Sincerely yours,

A. B. Curtis, Mayor

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