

## The New Upstream Look S. R.

Several notable decisions affecting the economy of the Pacific Northwest have been made in recent days in the national capital.

When congress finally passed the omnibus public works appropriation bill for the fiscal year which began more than six weeks ago, it granted funds for Columbia region projects substantially in accord with President Eisenhower's budget recommendations.

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The federal dams such as The Dalles, Chief Joseph and Ice Harbor will continue to have ample construction funds. So will the Columbia Basin irrigation project and numerous other reclamation developments.

Fisheries investigations have been expanded and other money granted for advance planning on several authorized jobs not yet ready for actual construction.

Of major significance was the addition of \$1,000,000 to begin work on the John Day dam, the last of the big Columbia river dams, which was authorized more than seven years ago and which will eventually cost more than \$300,000,000.

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Also significant, though regrettable, was the decision in the house of representatives, rejecting the use of \$500,000 for preliminary planning on the proposed Bruce Eddy dam on the Clearwater river in north Idaho.

Valiant efforts of Senator Henry Dworshak to secure authorization, or even planning funds, for this needed upstream flood control and power project were blockaded, thanks to a nationwide flood of letters and wires against Bruce Eddy, inspired by a handful of professional conservationists and wildlife enthusiasts.

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The campaign against Bruce Eddy has been going on for months but has received little attention in the Pacific Northwest.

Many of those who oppose the project in distant cities have been misinformed on the possible effect of this project on salmon and elk.

Some well-intentioned conservation-minded persons have joined in this national blockade against Bruce Eddy, and their influence has been felt in the budget bureau and other administrative agencies in Washington, as well as in congress itself.

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The Columbia region is beginning to take a new look at the need for upstream storage of water—which would not only prevent downstream floods but also aid substantially in downstream power production.

Right now, the proposed Bruce's Eddy project symbolizes that need for storage because the dam would be located where the melting snows could be feasibly stored and the runoff made productive rather than destructive.

The same situation holds true

with such a project as the proposed Glacier View dam in western Montana—also blockaded by the professional conservationists who can see only one aspect—the alleged injury to some wildlife or fish.

The move in congress to start a low-level Libby dam, free of Canadian complications, and the request of the interior department to investigate a high Pleasant Valley dam are firm indications of the new upstream look.

As the need for upstream storage becomes more apparent in the Columbia region, the friends of an orderly river development program are going to be faced with the need to set the record straight on the effects of river projects on fish and wildlife.

These effects are by no means as serious as they have been misrepresented.

They must be considered, however, and the fallacies of the professional conservationists must be answered.

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Columbia river development problems have already been badly snarled in the last year or two by intense partisan bickering and by the punitive warfare conducted against private or nonfederal power.

One wholesome indication that the rest of the nation is willing for the Northwest to work out its own destiny, in partnership with the federal government, was the confirmation vote in the senate on Jerome K. Kuykendall for a new term on the federal power commission.

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Despite the attacks on Mr. Kuykendall by the seven Democratic senators from the Pacific Northwest, the whole senate approved him by a vote of 50 to 25. That, in effect, was a national repudiation of the all-federal-or-nothing boys who have been muddying the waters of the Columbia region, especially on the Hells canyon question.

The confirmation of Kuykendall was one of the most notable decisions made last week in Washington. He will continue to be helpful to this region as it turns to the new look upstream.