

# Lewiston CC Backs Clearwater Dams--If Ice Harbor Gets Priority

Authorization for water storage dams on the Clearwater River will be given "neighborly support" by the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce provided Ice Harbor and other dams already authorized in the lower Snake River development program are given priority construction.

This was resolved here yesterday as the policy residents of the Lewiston area should take in a move for unity on new dam proposals that will be discussed at Orofino tomorrow night.

A resolution voted on at a noon meeting here yesterday that ties Ice Harbor in as a "priority package" will be taken to the Orofino meeting by a Lewiston delegation representing the Waterways Committee and the Roads & Highways Committee of the Chamber.

The resolution sanctions two of the proposed Clearwater dams, one at Bruce's Eddy on the North Fork just above Ahsahka, and Penny Cliffs dams on the Middle Fork just above Kooskia, with construction in that order.

### 'Bolt Out of Blue'

Speaking for the Waterways Committee at the meeting here of chamber directors and members of the two committees, Guy McLaughlin said:

"We should be—and we are—for any river development but it was a bolt out of the clear blue sky to us all a few months ago when these Clearwater storage dams were first suggested by Col. F. S. Tandy, (Walla Walla district engineer of the Army Corps of Engineers).

"How can we be sure this is not a move to divert our attention to new proposals rather than show us development on the lower Snake?"

Adding that completion of the authorized dams below Lewiston is "of far more immediate benefit to all of us, including the upper Clearwater," McLaughlin said:

"I hate to see us sanction something that will start the Army Engineers propounding new projects when we already have authorized projects that aren't finished."

### Urges Unity

John Shepard, chairman of the Waterways Committee, urged unity for Lewiston and Clearwater valley proponents of dams proposed for the North Fork, Middle Fork and Selway Rivers but stressed the point of priority for Ice Harbor construction.

"We have been told to get our back fence lines in order; that our national legislators shun anything controversial," Shepard said. "We hope we aren't adding more controversy to Ice Harbor in simply demanding it be built after waiting for it 20 years but we do not have to be complacent and acquiescent. I believe we can eliminate any stumbling blocks with our neighbors."

The meeting at Orofino will have representation from 40 of more communities of the Clearwater and Lewiston areas. It has been called by the Orofino Chamber of Commerce for preliminary discussion to gain "a solid stand" that may be presented at a public hearing Nov. 20 at Orofino to be conducted by Army Engineers.

### See Loss in Road Funds

Members of the Roads & Highways Committee expressed concern over the possibility of loss of highway funds appropriations if dams are authorized in the Clearwater area.

Dams on the Clearwater, first proposed by Colonel Tandy on a visit to Lewiston early this year, "may not be built long after they are designated on paper," said E. V. Lorenz at the meeting yesterday, "but they may be a bother to us in getting appropriations to have the Lewis & Clark Highway finished.

"After a designated dam gets on the government water supply maps, there's governmental concern over anything that happens around it. Any other proposal brings the question: 'Wait a minute. What about the dam site?'"

"Are the engineers setting up an alibi for themselves so they can say 'why spend more on these roads until we see what happens to the dams?'"

Vice President Arthur L. Barnes of the chamber board presided at the noon meeting.

The Lewiston delegation will include members of the two committees and officials of Pottlatch Forests, Inc. Among those who indicated they will be at the Orofino session are Roy Huffman, Don Zirbel, John Streiff, Walter Weisman, Robert Somerville and Shepard.