

Success Achieved With Bruces Eddy Authorization

Joint Efforts Saved Dam In Final Session

Bert Curtis, chairman of the Water Resources committee was enthusiastic over the success Senator Frank Church and other members of the Idaho delegation in keeping the Bruce's Eddy authorization intact after the flood of more controversial projects had threatened to engulf the whole bill.

Curtis said that Senator Robert Kerr of Oklahoma, chairman of the conference committee, kept the promise he made in Sept. to him and to Ray McNichols, that "There would be an omnibus bill and that Bruce's Eddy would be in it."

The Orofino mayor continued: "Regional utility companies operating in Idaho, were extremely cooperative last Thursday in expressing their wishes to eastern and southern power firms, stressing they had no objection to the inclusion of Bruce's Eddy in the bill. This assistance may have helped to swing votes of congressmen who opposed public power."

Curtis said Orofino's success in gaining the project was a tribute to bipartisan cooperation and the unified support of our people. Only major opposition came from the wildlifers who failed to prove their case after nine years of questionable and exaggerated claims.

In his demands for reduced wildlife opposition against the Bruce's Eddy dam. Senator Church, in a statement Thursday, said:

"I have championed the cause of the conservationists when I thought they were right," said Church. "I was floor manager of the wilderness bill in the Senate last year because I believed in it. But I will oppose these groups with the same vigor when I think they are wrong."

Bruce's Eddy is needed for power and flood control. Its benefits far outweigh its drawbacks. We must have added storage upstream, and the alternative high dam sites which are left to be developed in Idaho, like Penny Cliffs on the Middle Fork of the Clearwater and the sites on the Salmon River, would do irreparable injury to both our fish runs and our wildlife. It is worse than shortsighted to oppose Bruce's Eddy which will do the least damage to these resources while conferring the most benefits in terms of the added storage which we must have."

House Yields To End Long Project Fight

First Federal upstream flood control storage project for the Columbia River basin in nearly 15 years was authorized by congress Saturday when it approved a \$123 million dollar project at Bruce's Eddy.

House of Representative members of the conference committee forced the senate to back down on a half dozen other public works totaling over \$1.3 billions, but yielded on Bruce's Eddy and the Asotin project above Lewiston.

The five billion appropriation bill for public works that also passed Saturday included two million dollars in funds to start the construction program next spring.

Lost in the conference committee during the final day's hassle were the China Garden and Burns Creek projects which had extensive opposition from private utility companies as unnecessary outlay of federal funds.

Bruce's Eddy will give Clearwater county the highest dam in the Northwest, 673 feet, and will take seven years to complete if congress appropriates money in an orderly fashion, said Colonel James H. Beddow, chief of the Corps of Engineers at Walla Walla. The concrete gravity arch structure will be fourth highest in the country. Higher are Oroville, Calif., 730 feet; Hoover dam, 726 feet; and Glen Canyon, 710 feet.

Apparently power phases of the dam were not covered in the authorization since the ultimate cost of the dam and six generators has been estimated by the Army at \$186,000,000 or \$63 mil-

lion more than the approved figure. The dam will store 3,453,000 feet of water, make a reservoir over 50 miles long flooding out the mouth of the Little North Fork with nearly 100 feet of water.

On motion of George Hutchinson chamber of commerce members gave a standing ovation Monday night to Bert Curtis and Ray McNichols for their Herculean service over the years in furthering the achievement of Bruce's Eddy dam. Hutch said, "These two went back to Washington like school boys with their lunch pails but they came back covered with accomplishment and achievement unparalleled in the history of Northwest development."

George Rauch said that a 16,970 acre pool would yield about 100 million board feet of timber, not enough to have an adverse effect on the lumber market. Most of the area is state land or owned by PFI.

Colonel Beddow said that initial money will be used to build a road around the project to serve the Elk River-Dent areas, and then a tunnel will be constructed on the east bank of the river to divert water around the coffer dam, right at Bruce's Eddy.

Eventually the road to Elk River will be located above 1600-foot elevation and will skirt the backwaters of the pool several miles up Elk Creek canyon, before rejoining the present road to Elk river. It will cross Elk creek at the mouth of Meadow creek with a high bridge.

The project calls for a major 1200 foot bridge 4 miles below the Benton creek bridge at Grandad creek, connecting up major CTPA and PTPA area road systems. The pool will have 183 miles of shore line, all but 40 miles of which will be on private lands.