

Chamber Backs Waterways Resolution

The Snake River and its tributaries have been relegated to a "forgotten sanctuary of undeveloped water resources" in the Pacific Northwest river development program, the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce charged yesterday.

The charge was included in a statement of policy on water resources development, drawn up previously by the Chamber's Waterways Committee and adopted yesterday by the Chamber's board of directors.

Directors, meeting at noon at the Lewis-Clark Hotel, heard Chairman John Shepard read the Waterways' Committee resolution and statement of policy, reported in full after the committee's meeting last Friday.

Will Be Submitted

Shepard will submit the resolution and J. Harry Hughes, executive secretary of the Chamber, will submit the statement of policy at an Army Corps of Engineers hearing at Orofino Friday. The hearing will have representatives of approximately 50 communities in attendance. Engineers have called the meeting to get area sentiment on water reservoir proposals for the mid-Snake River sub-basin and its tributaries, including the Clearwater and Salmon River systems.

The Lewiston Chamber's resolution favors the authorization of additional water storage projects on the Clearwater River system but urges that the Snake River system be accorded first priority in any new construction starts in the Columbia Basin.

POMONA BACKS 3 DAMS

OROFINO — The Clearwater County Pomona Grange has gone on record as favoring construction of the Bruce Eddy and White Pine Dams on the North Fork of the Clearwater River and Penny Cliffs Dam on the Middle Fork provided provisions are made for relocating existing roads, including the Lewis & Clark Highway.

But the group further went on record as opposing the construction of the Kooskia and Forks Dams and any other dams that would flood out Kamiah, Kooskia and Stites.

Announcement of the Grange's action was made Monday by Leo E. Choate, Pomona master.

Council Votes To Endorse CC Policy On Clearwater Dams

The Lewiston City Council last night voted in effect to "rubber-stamp" the policies of the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce regarding proposed dams on the Clearwater River.

The Council received a letter from the Orofino Chamber of Commerce asking that the Council endorse an accompanying resolution favoring the dams.

At first the councilmen weren't sure exactly what action they ought to take on the matter, but, after mulling it over, finally decided to let City Attorney Elbert Stellmon draw up a resolution corresponding to the Lewiston Chamber's policy.

The Lewiston Chamber yesterday adopted a resolution favoring development of the Clearwater River system, provided the Clearwater projects are recommended by the Army Corps of Engineers in its current review of the "308 Report."

The Chamber particularly recommended authorization of Penny Cliffs Dam on the Middle Fork and either White Pine or Bruce Eddy Dam on the North Fork. Its approval of Penny Cliffs hinged on whether construction of the dam would in any way hinder completion of the Lewis & Clark Highway.

The resolutions of both the Chamber and City Council will be presented at a public hearing on the Clearwater dam proposals, to be conducted Friday at Orofino by the Army Engineers.

Labor Council Favors High Dam

A resolution favoring priority for "a high Hells Canyon dam over lesser dams" was passed by the Central Labor Council at its meeting at the Labor Temple last night after two speakers had expressed themselves in favor of a high dam.

The council voted to present the resolution at a hearing at Orofino Friday night on proposed upstream development of the Clearwater River.

The action came after Lynn Tuttle of Clarkston, Eastern Washington regional director of the Idaho-Oregon-Washington Hells Canyon Dam Association, told the group that "Hells Canyon would provide 10 per cent of the storage necessary for maximum development of water energy in the Columbia Basin." He added, "Other storage dams, such as the Clearwater, are also necessary but can never take the place of the high Hells Canyon dam."

Maynard Kendall, president of the Labor Council, said after the meeting that "Delegates were of the opinion that the hearings at this time on the Clearwater development are merely to distract attention from the Hells Canyon issue." He said Harold Fields of the Teamsters Union and Leo Edwards of the Carpenters Union would be Labor Council delegates at the Friday night hearing.

Tells Of U.N. Group

George Harbison reported on the convention of the American Association for the United Nations, which he attended as Labor Council delegate. He said 1,500 delegates attended the convention luncheon, held at the University of Washington, Seattle, on Armistice Day, and that he had short talks with both Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Clark M. Eichelberger, national director of the association.

Harbison said both Eichelberger and Mrs. Roosevelt agreed to make a trip to Lewiston if a chapter were formed here. Kendall said the Labor Council would be happy to meet with other civic groups interested in forming a chapter.

The meeting was a "family night" affair, with members of Boy Scout Troop 129, sponsored by the council, and Scoutmaster Robert Johnson attending. Special guests included Scout Executive Harry Michelson and Scout Commissioner William Hranac. The program included entertainment and refreshments after the regular session.

At first, councilmen were dubious about whether they should take any action at all. Councilmen Wesley Grow and Joe Skok both remarked that they thought the matter wasn't within the Council's jurisdiction.

Mayor D. K. Worden commented that the flood control factors of the dams might enter into the Council's province, but he added that the Lewiston Chamber is a much larger group and that he thought such decisions would be more in its province. Council Beth Durham agreed.

Stellmon commented that the Chamber, in taking its action yesterday noon, felt that "there isn't too much conflict now" because the Clearwater dams haven't yet been authorized, whereas such dams as Ice Harbor on the Lower Snake, have been. The Lewiston Chamber endorses Ice Harbor, Hells Canyon and other proposed federal dams on the Snake.

"They're just trying to get the Snake dams off their backs, aren't they?" asked Councilman E. B. Anderson.

"There's no question that there would be untold benefit to Lewiston if the Clearwater dams were built," Stellmon said. He cited flood control and navigational benefits.

Dr. Worden asked if the councilmen thought they were "going too fast" in perhaps taking action before mulling the matter over thoroughly.

"I don't know why we should oppose the (Lewiston) Chamber by not signing it," Anderson said.

Stellmon commented that he didn't think the Lewiston Chamber would even consider entering into anything that would "take the heat off Hells Canyon." "Why don't you," he asked, "let me take this up with John Shepard (co-chairman of the Chamber Waterways Committee) and some others and then call a special meeting."

But Dr. Worden suggested that the Council, to avoid a special meeting, draw up a resolution corresponding to the Chamber resolution.

Anderson's motion that the Council follow Dr. Worden's suggestion was seconded and carried unanimously.