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DAMS DISCUSSED — Col. Allen Clarke (right), Portland District engineer for the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers, and Sen. Henry Dworshak (R-Idaho) conferred recently at Washington, D.C., on Columbia River drainage dams. Col. Clarke said the Bruces Eddy site on the North Fork of the Clearwater River is "superior" for an electric-power and flood control dam.

FPC Decision Helps Bruces Eddy—Dworshak

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Dworshak (R-Idaho) said Wednesday that refusal by the Federal Power Commission to authorize construction of two dams on the Snake River "points the finger of necessity" at the Bruces Eddy dam on Idaho's Clearwater River.

"The middle Snake," Dworshak said in a statement, "has turned into a power no man's land and it may be years before the disputes can be settled. Our only hope for orderly development is to construct other dams while the Snake fight is being waged."

The Power Commission turned down an application from Pacific Northwest Power Co. to build dams at Mountain Sheep and Pleasant Valley. Instead the agency suggested construction of a high dam at the Nez Perce site downstream.

Continued development of the Northwest's water resources "dictates that Bruces Eddy be built in the near future," Dworshak said, adding that it has fewer factors to create construction delays than any of the proposed Snake River dam sites.

He said reasons for early construction include these:

"1. The need for starting construction of more water control facilities in the Northwest.

"2. Reports by the U. S. Army Engineers that Bruces Eddy is a superior natural damsite.

"3. Evaluation of a wildlife report which shows that habitat

damage will be minor in comparison with benefits to be derived from the dam.

"4. The probability of a workable fish program to replace steel-

head runs blocked by the dam.

"5. The dam would not affect salmon runs.

"6. The dam fits in with flood control needs."

A personal matter

Back when Publisher Swisher was writing "by the inch" for the Salt Lake Tribune, the Portneuf River had a higher repute than nowadays. In spring, when the river would flood the homes along its banks, the stories out of Salt Lake were almost as long as the stream.

Now the Portneuf seems to be getting ready for another romp among the lowland gardens and the golf course. The problem is real, but it's not big in comparison to the same problem along the banks of the Clearwater or Priest River in northern Idaho.

There has been some talk again in this national legislature of building a combined flood-control, power dam—or two dams on the Clearwater.

When they talk about flood control on the Clearwater, they're not fooling. Bridges, houses, a ball park and the fairgrounds building went toward Portland in the last big flood. Orofino creek, a minor feeder of the Clearwater, is bigger than the Portneuf and in flood time clashes house-sized boulders into gravel.

The Clearwater is four husky rivers, the Lochsa, Selway, South Fork and North Fork. At present, the only approved damsite is on the North Fork, leaving three towns and as many bridges at the mercy of the river on the other two forks.

Public or private, low or high, the Clearwater needs to be dammed before another year such as 1948 happens. The state of Idaho paid out enough in road and bridge repairs that summer and in years following to build a respectable plug somewhere in the Clearwater.

My reason for writing this is to ask for understanding of the problem here in the far south. And, Orofino creek keeps rooting up the sod in my mother's back yard.

INTERMOUNTAIN