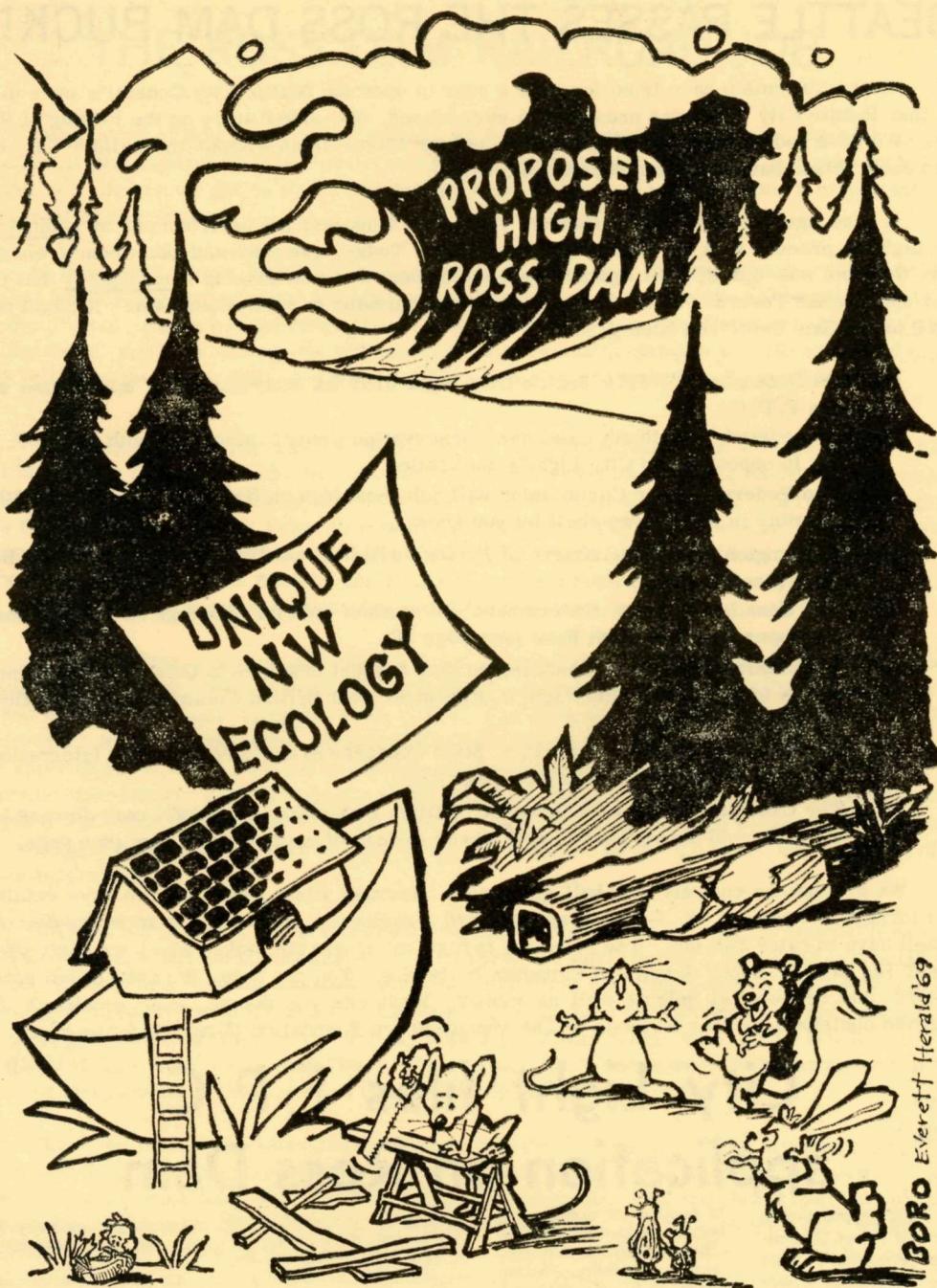


'Ha, Ha, Ha . . . And Not a Cloud in Sight'



THE WILD CASCADES

October - November 1970

SEATTLE PASSES THE ROSS DAM BUCK!

Conservationists have tried for over a year to open the Seattle City Council's eyes to the fact that Seattle City Light has presented a very biased, one-sided story on the raising of Ross Dam. We have had to lobby the City Council and the Mayor from without the walls of City Hall while John Nelson has done his lobbying from within.

A year ago the Seattle City Council voted 5 to 4 against the environment by authorizing City Light to proceed with its Ross High Dam plans. Today, one year and one Council election later, the vote was 6 to 2, still against the environment and now making it mandatory that City Light apply to the Federal Power Commission for permission to raise Ross Dam. It might have been 6 to 3 if Sam Smith had been present.

- (1) On December 19, 1970 Seattle City Light filed its Ross High Dam application with the F. P. C.
- (2) Immediately the North Cascades Conservation Council also filed with the F. P. C., but in opposition to City Light's application.
- (3) The Federal Power Commission will hold hearings on High Ross in 1971 and 1972, possibly in Seattle (we shall let you know).
- (4) Washington State Department of Ecology will hold public hearings on raising Ross Dam (see page 36).
- (5) The Canadian Federal Government will conduct judicial hearings on the flooding of the upper Skagit by High Ross (see page 36).
- (6) The International Joint Commission may conduct hearings in Canada and the United States to reevaluate City Light's agreement with British Columbia to permit flooding the upper Skagit.
- (7) The Canadian Consul and the U. S. State Department are discussing the international effect of raising Ross Dam (see page 37).
- (8) The Canadian Federal Government, British Columbia, and Seattle may discuss how Canada could supply Seattle with power instead of raising Ross Dam (see page

We are into an entirely new ball game now. Because it's a legal one, we have retained two attorneys, Thomas H. S. Brucker and Richard Aramburu. Because it's an expensive one, we shall have to raise \$50,000. The price tag is high but so are the stakes which we can't afford to lose: Big Beaver, upper Skagit and Canadian friendship. You can help. We need office space, furniture, and secretarial help as well as money. What can you donate, lend, or offer? Tax deductible contributions may be made to The Mountaineers Foundation (Skagit Defense Fund).

Seattle
Times
Dec. 18
1970

City Light files F.P.C. application on Ross Dam

P. D. G.

City Light's application to the Federal Power Commission for permission to build the High Ross Dam project was filed in Washington yesterday.

The filing follows City Council approval of an ordinance directing John Nelson, City Light superintendent, to submit the application to the F. P. C.

At first it was believed filing would have to wait about

30 days for the ordinance to become legally effective, but officials today said it contains a provision allowing Nelson to file the document under authority granted him by the Council last year.

City Light wants to add 122½ feet to the top of existing Ross Dam to increase the volume of water in Ross Lake and the amount of power that can be generated at the Ross powerhouse.

Filing of the application will be only the first step in a long legal procedure, including public hearings.

Conservationists and others opposing the High Ross project have promised to testify against it before the Federal Power Commission. City Light has estimated the project will cost about \$45.5 million.

The new dam height will enable Ross generators to produce an additional 272,000

kilowatts of electricity during the peak-consumption hours of each day.

The application was completed several weeks ago and was held in Washington by a law firm representing City Light. Mayor Wes Uhlman said he opposed filing the application, but the City Council earlier this week adopted an ordinance directing Nelson to file it.

Uhlman said he would not veto the Council action.

THE ROSS DAM RAILROAD JOB

Publication of this issue had been held up so that we might report the last sorry act of a City Council that appears to think "environment" and "ecology" are just words you read in a Boise-Cascade ad. Before we get on to that distasteful task, though, we want to honor a mayor with real environmental convictions.

In November Mayor Wes Uhlman's office let us know that the mayor was troubled over the potential harm to the environment of High Ross and would like to meet with conservationists to discuss the project. A group of the most knowledgeable individuals on the effects of High Ross, including Canadians, met with the mayor and explained the incredible damage this ill-conceived project would inflict on the North Cascades National Park complex and Canada's Upper Skagit.

On December 3 Mayor Uhlman released his well-researched and well-reasoned letter to City Councilman George Cooley. He informed Mr. Cooley that the negative environmental impacts of High Ross appeared to outweigh any real power benefits and that he had ordered City Light not to file an application with the Federal Power Commission. The Mayor was promptly and warmly commended for this wise and courageous action by the North Cascades Conservation Council, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, the National Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth, the National Parks and Conservation Association, and The Mountaineers.

In spite of this widespread demonstration of national opposition of High Ross (or perhaps, because of it,) George Cooley immediately scheduled a meeting of the Utilities Committee to "authorize and direct" City Light to apply to the F. P. C. "as soon as practible." Fortunately, the local conservation organizations heard about Mr. Cooley's action to make it mandatory that Seattle City Light apply to the F. P. C., in time to alert their members to attend the meeting. It is always well that public officials who sell the people's birthright do so in the full glare of public exposure. Especially is it desirable that an individual like George Cooley, who was elected to his post in November, 1969, saying then he was opposed to High Ross, be required to do his about face in front of his former supporters.

Anyway, the Council Chambers were filled on December 10, in spite of the miserable weather. Two bus-loads of about 100 Canadians left Vancouver in the early morning hours and arrived in time to finish packing the chamber. In their innocence and trust that they might in some way influence the determined polluters on the Seattle City Council, the college kids among them had brought numbers of brightly painted signs with such legends as: "Flood Skagit with Love, Not Water," "No Dam Flood in Skagit Valley," and "Park Yes -- Flood No." These were the same signs that 3000 Canadians had carried to the Canadian end of Ross Reservoir last month.

The signs brought an immediate outburst from Chairman Cooley, who ordered them outside and warned that any demonstration would bring in the strom troops to clear the chamber. Ex-policeman Larkin announced that this was not a public hearing, that the people had already had a chance to be heard from (fat lot of good it did them!) and let's get on with the vote. Democratic Politician Jeanette Williams agreed with Larkin. Only Tim Hill argued for letting the people be heard, pointing out that the chamber was filled with Canadians who had driven all the way from Vancouver and who deserved a chance to speak.

Jeanette said a whole evening last spring had been taken up by these colonists from up North, and that spoke their piece then. Larkin growled that he didn't want to hear from the people. Tim insisted, and finally Cooley grudgingly granted 20 minutes for public testimony.

The North Cascades Conservation Council's legal counsel, Thomas H. S. Brucker, led off by accusing the Utilities Committee of spinelessness and buck-passing in not making a decision on

High Ross. He pointed out that the public does not have the right to be heard before the Federal Power Commission, that the Seattle Council had no conception of what such a hearing was like, and that they were committing the City of Seattle to the expenditure of vast sums of money in seeking approval for the dam.

Ken Farquharson of Vancouver, representing R. O. S. S. (Run Out Skagit Spoilers), made a brief statement in which he assured the councilmen that Seattle would not succeed in flooding the Skagit and that the Seattle Council was "merely engaging in an exercise of futility". The question of High Ross had become a national issue, he said, and the payment to British Columbia of only 1% of what City Light claimed as its annual benefits from the dam was regarded in Canada as a complete giveaway of national resources. Mr. Farquharson sat down to sustained applause, causing Mr. Cooley to say that if there was another "demonstration," he would cut off further discussion and call for an immediate vote. Some of the longer-haired contingent in the audience muttered that George didn't seem to know what a demonstration really was.

Anyway, a few more people spoke briefly, and then the time was up. Tim Hill urged a stop to City Light's aggressive advertising and promotion of the use of electricity. Jeanette Williams made a little speech about how hard she had worked for the establishment of the North Cascades National Park and about how there was a "tacit agreement" at the time of the Park hearings that City Light would be allowed to do its thing. It wasn't said in so many words, she said, but everybody recognized it. (You bet it was tacit, Jeanette, but who besides Mr. Nelson did the agreeing? Certainly not the conservationists!) Then she blasted the Sierra Club for putting out falsehoods about Ross Dam in the last issue of The Wild Cascades. (Let's get the organizations straight, Jeanette. We take credit for The Wild Cascades, which is in no way affiliated with the Sierra Club. Our friends in the Sierra Club can put out their own "falsehoods.")

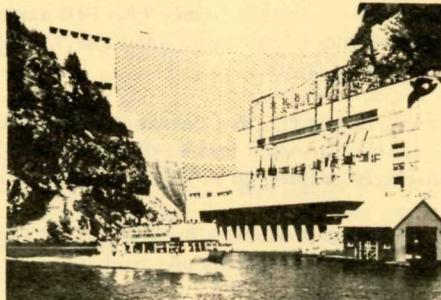
Then there was the vote. Williams, Larkin, and Cooley for the amended "mandatory" ordinance and Hill against it.

The meeting of the full Council on December 14 was more routine. The amended ordinance slipped through by a vote of 6 to 2. Voting for the people were Tim Hill and Mrs. Phyllis Lamphere. Voting for Electric John's Big Machine were George Cooley, Jeanette Williams, Wayne Larkin, Charles Carroll, Ted Best, and Liem Tuai.

We shall not forget our friends nor forgive our foes!

There's no question but that we have our work cut out for us now. We don't have City Light's enormous financial resources with which to entice "expert witnesses." We shall find our own unpaid experts among those professional and academic people who love the land, but we shall also need substantial sums to duplicate their reports and pay their transportation and expenses to the hearings. We'll be calling on you for help.

The protracted battle through the Seattle City Council, beginnning in October of 1969, was a pretty foregone conclusion. It was a successful holding operation, however, gaining us 14 months of time. We have fallen back to prepared positions and are ready to take on Electric John's forces on a new field of battle, Surrender? Merde!



ORDINANCE 99507

AN ORDINANCE amending Section 1 of Ordinance 98135 to authorize and direct an application to the Federal Power Commission for an amendment of the City's existing Federal Power Commission License (Project no. 553) for the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Section 1 of Ordinance 98135 is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. That the Superintendent of Lighting is hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of The City of Seattle to execute the file with the Federal Power Commission as soon as may be practicable after the effective date of this ordinance, an application for amendment of Federal Power Commission License Project No. 553 to authorize raising Ross Dam to increase the reservoir elevation from 1602.5 feet to elevation 1725 feet above mean sea level, and to take other necessary and proper steps in connection with the filing of such application.

Section 2. This amending ordinance shall not be construed to preclude the Superintendent of Lighting from filing the application herein authorized prior to the effective date hereof.



Western Redcedars in Big Beaver Valley - J. W. Miller

Seattle Times, August 19, 1970

Uhlman is studying a higher Ross Dam

Mayor Wes Uhlman is impressed with recreation opportunities a higher Ross Dam would offer, Deputy Mayor Richard Page said today.

He noted that the mayor and City Councilman George Cooley have toured the Ross Lake National Area Recreation Area. "I don't think either man is convinced of any dire consequences from raising the dam," Page said.

But before deciding on whether City Light will apply to the Federal Power Commission for a license to raise the dam 12½ feet, the

mayor plans to meet with conservationists and others, Page added. A decision will be made in October.

Page said the mayor has held several meetings in connection with the proposal. Among those Uhlman met with are Dr. Patrick Goldsworthy, president of the North Cascades Conservation Council; Richard Brooks, a Seattle businessman; and Irving Clark, Jr., an attorney.

Uhlman toured the area Saturday with Barney Dowdle, a University of Washington forester.

Interest Conflict Charged On Dam

Councilwoman Jeanette Williams will be asked by environmentalists to abstain from tomorrow's City Council vote to authorize City Light's application to the Federal Power Commission to raise Ross Dam.

Opponents of the project claim a conflict of interest exists in Mrs. Williams' case.

Thomas H. S. Brucker, Seattle attorney and member of the board of the North Cascades Environmental Council, charged yesterday that the conflict of interest arose because Mrs. Williams' husband, David, is an electrical design engineer for City Light.

Mrs. Williams, while arguing that she doesn't "see this as a conflict of interest to begin with," said she will seek legal advice before making a decision.

Asked yesterday if he thought that by having Mrs. Williams abstain, it would make a difference in the vote outcome, Brucker said:

"I'm not sure it would make a difference, but when there is a conflict of interest, she just ought to abstain because she's involved on both sides of the thing. It is impossible for a member of the City Council to fulfill her duties to the people of Seattle concerning Ross Dam while her husband is employed with City Light."

When asked her reaction, Mrs. Williams said:

"I will be getting legal advice both from a private attorney and corporation counsel. At this point I don't see a conflict any more than any other council member that uses City Light."

She added that the situation was "very interesting" because the City Council is currently working on a new code of ethics. She said she would examine her position "in light of the new proposals."

Brucker said that if the vote goes against his group, which is fighting the application to raise the dam 12½ feet, it will "intervene in the proceedings with the Federal Power Commission and will fight it (the application)."

He said hearings before the Federal Power Commission are "extremely unfair" because it requires the testimony of many experts, and that can be "terribly expensive."

"City Light can use the taxpayers' money for those experts," Brucker said, "but we've got to use our own money."

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 13, 1970

THE WILD CASCADES

joined by six others "in commanding Mayor Uhlman for his courageous ecological support."

The other groups were the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, the National Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth, National Parks Association and the Mountaineers.

"It is more regrettable," Goldsworthy added, "that at the same time we must strongly condemn George Cooley (chairman of the City Council Utilities Committee) for his callous desire to plunge ahead with the enlargement of Ross Dam."

"Ultimately this project will be stopped. The city of Seattle does itself no credit in disregarding the environmental consequences of this marginal project. The nation will not allow the North Cascades to be further compromised by such an unnecessary development," Goldsworthy said.

Seven national conservationist organizations today praised Mayor Wes Uhlman's position on the proposed raising of the height of Ross Dam.

Uhlman last week said he believed "the negative environmental impacts appear to outweigh any 'real' power benefits" and said he had ordered City Light not to file an application for a project license with the Federal Power Commission unless the City Council orders that action.

Patrick D. Goldsworthy, president of the North Cascades Conservation Council, said his group has been

Seattle Times, December 8, 1970



Seattle Times, May 1, 1970

Gorton Voices Doubts on Dam

VANCOUVER, B. C. — (AP) — A Seattle City Light project that would create a dam and flood part of British Columbia's Skagit Valley has been described as "highly questionable" by Washington Attorney General Slade Gorton.

"Is the small increase in electric power, which will result from raising a dam or creating a new dam, sufficient to pay for the environmental damage which it causes?" Gorton asked.

"My own view is that it's highly questionable that this particular project should be

carried out when you weigh it in that fashion."

He said plans to increase the height of Ross Dam, to provide additional hydro power for Seattle City Light, are not in his jurisdiction.

The project has been criticized by a Vancouver-based group called Run Out Skagit Spoilers (ROSS). The group says the Canadian government has assured it that no permit will be granted to Seattle City Light, allowing storage of water on Canadian soil, without public hearings in British Columbia.



December 3, 1970

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR—CITY OF SEATTLE**Wes Uhlman, Mayor**

The Honorable George Cooley
Chairman, Utilities Committee
The City Council
City of Seattle

Dear George:

With the budget demands now behind us, I believe it is imperative at this time to deal with the proposed filing of an application to the Federal Power Commission to raise Ross Dam.

As I indicated to you personally a few weeks ago, I asked the Superintendent of City Light to delay filing the application for a few more weeks to provide sufficient time to complete a careful review of all the issues involved. This review has led me to have serious reservations about the project.

After receiving the opinion of the Corporation Counsel, dated December 1st, which you requested, and after reading newspaper accounts of your intentions to ask the City Council to approve a "directing" rather than an "authorizing" ordinance, I thought it would be helpful to you and the Council to outline my assessment of the situation.

First let me emphasize that I believe that as responsible public officials it is necessary for me and for the new City Councilmen who were elected in November, 1969, after the adoption of Ordinance 98315 on October 31, 1969, to review all aspects of the City Light proposal to apply to raise Ross Dam. I have attempted to conduct this review as thoroughly as possible.

I have personally examined the application to the FPC and all the supporting material. I have personally visited the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project and hiked into Big Beaver Valley. I have discussed the Ross Dam proposal many times with Superintendent Nelson, other City Light officials, and Bonneville Power Administration officials. I have met several times with conservationists, Canadians, and other citizens opposed to the dam. I have met with citizens who support the project. I have discussed the matter with you on several occasions, and with other City Councilmen. Clearly, there are important considerations, both pro and con, that must be weighed carefully.

The raising of Ross Dam by 122-1/2 feet would complete the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project, first planned in 1925. It would raise the elevation of the reservoir from 1602.5 feet to elevation 1725 feet above mean sea level.

The expanded height of the dam is estimated to add approximately 272,000 kilowatts of peaking power and 38,000 kilowatts of prime power to the capacity of the Ross Plant. Many safeguards and arrangements have already been made by City Light to provide compensation to Canada in accordance with legal agreements of 1942 and 1967; to replace campgrounds and recreational facilities that would be flooded; and to pay for replacing fish and other natural resources that would be lost.

City Light has, in addition, fully explained that the new higher reservoir would not be drawn down as severely as in the case now. The power provided by the raised Ross Dam would be Seattle-owned and, therefore, be a more reliable source than other sources.

Finally, City Light has concluded that no other alternatives which have been suggested to raising Ross Dam appear to be as economical. City Light officials do recognize, of course, the region's need to build additional prime power and peaking power capacity to serve the whole Northwest.

On the other side of the ledger there are equally important concerns. The additional power to be provided at an estimated cost of \$45 million in construction alone will simply not make a substantial dent in reducing Seattle's and the region's, need for additional base generating and peaking power. High Ross Dam is estimated to provide less than one year's base power supply, and less than two years of peaking power. In fact, Seattle is not really short of peaking power and has no obligation to build additional peaking power. Under the Northwest regional power system, the Bonneville Power Administration has said it will endeavor to provide peaking power and has projects planned or underway that will develop 20 million kilowatts of additional generating capacity. Even with High Ross power, Seattle must still expect to commit major sums of money, in cooperation with other interested parties, in finding feasible sites and constructing base generating power plants with fossil fuel or nuclear power.

Also, the financial cost of High Ross is based on an assumed 6 percent interest rate, which is unrealistically low. Serious questions about the real economic costs of High Ross persist and were raised again just recently in Professor Douglas North's letter of June 11, 1970, to you.

Questions have also been raised about the engineering feasibility and safety of the proposed construction.

Further, the negative environmental impacts of raising Ross Dam appear, in my judgment, so serious they could outweigh the supposed recreational advantages of the High Ross project. The new reservoir would increase from 22 to 29.5 miles in length and flood an additional 8,600 acres of land, of which 5,100 acres are in Canada. Replacing fish spawning grounds, if indeed that can be done -- and fish biologists disagree -- is hardly as good as protecting and conserving existing spawning grounds. Flooding a beautiful wilderness valley, one of the few remaining untouched valleys on the western slope of the Cascades, cannot be justified simply by constructing a few more campgrounds around the shores of the larger reservoir. The much-discussed stand of Western red cedar trees, which you and I have both examined on sight may not be unique, but it is, in professional foresters' opinion, a superior stand of scarce timber. It, too, represents a valuable natural resource which should be conserved if possible.

In all candor, I might not weigh these environmental values as heavily if I were convinced that raising Ross Dam would provide more of a solution to Seattle's need for additional electric power. But, that does not appear to be the case. Raising Ross Dam will take a number of years, through an extensive process including an FPC hearing in this country, and perhaps a hearing in Canada, prior to actual construction.

Its dollar cost is substantial, and its power output is minor when weighed against the great need for new base generating power plants in the Northwest. We face an urgent need to begin now to plan those plants and get them on line in the middle and late 1970's. Even with swift planning and a minimum of controversy over site location and construction, Seattle and the Northwest face the possibility of power deficits by the latter part of this decade. Such deficits, if they occur, will be the fault of our predecessors' failure to plan and act decisively. Our decision on High Ross will, in fact, have no bearing on any power deficits, for a decision to apply to the FPC will not bring High Ross power on line soon enough to avoid such deficits even if the project were to be completed in time.

I simply do not want to commit myself to 1925 priorities, and I would insist on power plans that will stand the test of being both more current and environmentally sound.

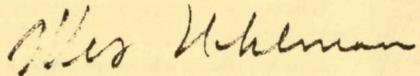
After conducting my own careful review of all these issues, I have serious reservations about

the merits of proceeding with the FPC application to raise Ross Dam. The negative environmental impacts appear to outweigh any "real" power benefits.

For these several reasons, and because of the permissive nature of Ordinance 98315, as Mayor of the City I have instructed Superintendent Nelson not to file the application with the FPC unless the new City Council should by ordinance direct him or me to proceed.

I hope this letter is helpful to you and your colleagues in understanding my position.

Sincerely,



Wes Uhlman
Mayor

WU:ds
cc: Mr. John Nelson
Mr. A. L. Newbould



Big Beaver Valley - J. W. Miller

THE BALLAD OF BIG BEAVER OR THE ROSS DAM BLUES

by the Kerosene Kid

There is a valley, where the giant cedars grow,
 Where the beaver dwell, and the blue waters flow
 Down from the hills' eternal snow;
 A quiet place where the hikers go.
 "Dam it, flood it, cut the trees down
 "To make more juice for Seattle town!"

Electric John Nelson was the name of the man;
 Seattle City Light was the outfit he ran.
 "Raise Ross Dam," he said, "As fast as you can,
 "Or you'll run outa power for your 'lectric fry pan."
 "Dammit, clear it, set the slash ablaze;
 "We need more aluminum TV trays!"

Nobody asked where the beaver could go,
 Where the deer would live when the winter's snow
 Blanketed the hills above the valley they know,
 Where the birds could nest and the wild flowers grow.
"Dammit, DAMMIT, mow down the trees!
 "Flood out the homes of the birds and the bees!
 "We need more power to make our freezers freeze!"

Listen to what the conservationists say:
 Turn out the lights; don't bathe every day;
 If we flood Big Beaver, our children will pay.
 They'll need wild country more than we do today.
 "DAMN IT! John Nelson and Seattle City Light,
 "Give up High Ross, 'cause it really isn't right
 "To flood our Park to keep the Sea-First Bank alight!"



If any of you guitar-playing cats out there would like a measure of immortality, how about writing some music to go with these deathless lines and making us a tape? We need a folk song to play when our speakers are addressing young people's groups. We'll even try to get KJR to play it.

Advisory Board Urged as City Light Watchdog

BY MIKE CONANT

A UW economist yesterday urged the appointment of a special advisory board to watchdog the operations of City Light.

Douglass C. North, chairman of the Department of Economics at the University of Washington, said the new board is needed because "City Light has been completely self-run without any effective checks provided by the City Council."

Prof. North served as a consultant to the Council Public Utilities Committee throughout nine hearings earlier this year during which the committee probed into the operations of City Light.

Released yesterday by Committee Chairman George Cooley, Prof. North's four-page list of findings criticized the public utility in several areas, sometimes scathingly.

Prof. North said the "City Council has neither

have they presented any evidence from other utilities around the United States."

2 — High Ross Dam. City Light did not provide adequate information to the Council Utilities Committee to make a decision as to whether the height of Ross Dam should be increased as proposed by the utility, he said.

3 — Kiket Island versus Hanford Atomic Works. The City Council does not have adequate information to determine which is the best site for the nuclear power generating plant proposed by City Light.

4 — Financing. "It appears evident that, assuming City Light's current projections of load growth and present pattern of expenditures are accurate, a rate increase will be necessary in the next few years."

5 — Advertising. "No systematic evidence on advertising was presented by Seattle City Light. Nor was the charge that their advertising exacer-

bated the peak-load problem refuted," Prof. North said.

6 — Undergrounding. "The rate of increase of arterial undergrounding has been below that projected by City Light. City Light's comparison of their undergrounding with other cities was not convincing with respect to their comparative position on this matter. The current residential undergrounding policy puts the burden of undergrounding on low-income groups and favors the rich."

Prof. North also noted:

"It appears Seattle City Light has been negligent in the way in which it was led and supervised contracts for undergrounding. It is equally clear that its public relations on this matter leaves a great deal to be desired."

"This, as well as faulty work in some areas, has unnecessarily increased the cost of undergrounding to customers."

emotional warning to rate payers, true or not, that failing to raise the dam will result in higher electrical costs and electrical brownouts.

Environmentalists in Seattle can call upon only a handful of active lobbyists for support. Nevertheless, the extent of their power reaches to the young, who are environmentally concerned, and nationally organized groups.

Uhlman already has received the support of seven well-known conservation organizations, including the nationwide Sierra Club, for using the power of his office to halt submission by City Light of the application to the FPC to raise the dam.

"The additional power to be provided (by raising the dam) at an estimated cost of \$45 million in construction alone will simply not make a substantial dent in reducing Seattle's, and the region's, need for additional base-generating and peaking power," Uhlman said.

Uhlman's opinion contrasts with that of City Light which has concluded that no other alternative to providing needed electrical power is as economical as raising Ross.

Raising Ross Dam from 1,602.5 feet to 1,725 feet would complete the Skagit River hydroelectric project planned as far back as 1925.

The new reservoir created by the project would increase the length of Ross Lake from 22 miles to 29.5 miles, thereby flooding an additional 8,600 acres that many consider to include unique wilderness areas.

Council to Force Dam Showdown

BY MIKE CONANT

City councilmen will try forcing a showdown tomorrow with Mayor Wes Uhlman on the issue of raising the height of Ross Dam.

Led by its chairman, George Cooley, the Council Utilities Committee will consider an ordinance designed to direct City Light to ask the Federal Power Commission for permission to raise the Skagit Valley Dam 122½ feet.

Some councilmen privately believe they have enough votes to pass the ordinance, although maybe not enough to override its possible veto by Uhlman.

But one councilman said:

"What we really want to see is whether the mayor will stick his neck out far enough to veto it."

Behind the scenes is a showdown battle between the environmentalists and the public-power lobby.

Locally, City Light can call upon an influential and money-back public-power base for support, as well as the



DOUGLASS C. NORTH
Critical of City Light

THE GREAT CITY LIGHT HEARINGS

by
The Kerosene Kid

Since our last report on the High Ross issue went to press (April 1970 Wild Cascades), the Seattle City Council conducted a series of nine hearings on the policies of City Light. The evening hearings, particularly, were well attended, and the weight of opposition to High Ross was almost overwhelming. Practically no one spoke in favor of the project except City Light's employees, paid consultants like Drs. Grant Sharpe and Barney Dowdle, and a few flacks like Larry Penberthy.

Our Canadian friends, in especial, put on a tremendous demonstration of solidarity in opposition to City Light's plans to flood the Upper Skagit Valley. Councilman Cooley, chairman of the Council's utility's committee, was presented a petition bearing the signatures of 27,000 British Columbians opposing the flooding by High Ross Dam.

The tone of the Canadian's presentations was generally restrained, expressing regret and sadness that their southern neighbors appeared so determined to devastate one of their irreplaceable national treasures. We doubt that Americans would show similar restraint if a governmental branch of a foreign power were planning to inundate, for example, the Hoh Valley.

The City Council had employed Dr. Douglass C. North, University of Washington economist, to advise them on City Light's policies. In addition to attending all the hearings and frequently questioning the witnesses, Dr. North made a thorough study of several months' duration of City Light's operations. The report of his findings, however, was a bit too critical of City Light to suit the utilities supporters on the Council.

He said the utility had failed to furnish the Council with enough information to permit it to make a rational decision on High Ross Dam. He suggested that City Light experiment with varying price structures to see if peak-load problems can be eased. (This is our suggestion of last year for rate incentives to encourage off-peak use of power to heat domestic water.) Dr. North also charged, as we have done, that City Light's aggressive advertising program has helped to create its peak-load problem.

Finally, Dr. North recommended that the City Council appoint an advisory board to oversee City Light's operations. He commented that the Utility's affairs are so complex that it is impossible for Council members to spend enough time to understand all their aspects. And while Dr. North didn't say it, we would add that Electric John's boys are so adept at concealing and distorting information, that a Councilman would need CIA training to really dig out the necessary data.

Anyway, the North Report appears to have been swept under the rug. George Cooley says he can "live with" a High Ross Dam and will let City Light go to the Federal Power Commission for permission to go ahead with the construction.

It's up to US now to unite all the people who can't live with High Ross into an irresistible force and defeat this monstrosity.

By BOB LANE

Construction of High Ross Dam by City Light will damage seriously the fish and wildlife populations of the Upper Skagit River Valley, game officials of British Columbia and Washington told the City Council last night.

In a public hearing on City Light policies and programs that ran nearly until midnight, the Council also heard an appeal that the United States and Canada cooperate in creating a great international park along the Skagit. The Council was warned the city will have trouble winning approval of the Canadian national government for High Ross.

A TEAM OF British Columbia conservationists dominated testimony before the Council. The group gave the city petitions, signed by about 27,000 residents of the province, saying that the hydro project would deprive the people "forever of a uniquely magnificent recreation area."

Dr. James Hatter, director of fish and game for British Columbia, said raising the level of Ross Lake about 125 feet would send the lake flooding 11.5 miles farther north into the province.

The flooding would destroy 36 per cent of the usable spawning beds along the Skagit River, Hatter said. **The length of the river to be flooded is a prime spawning ground for rainbow trout,** he added.

In addition, the valley bottom along the river attracts hundreds of deer, bears, coyotes, cougar, beaver, mink and other wild animals. The flooding would deprive them of the lush valley bottom as a home, Hatter added.

Hatter said the Skagit River is rich in food for fish. He said the stream is the finest "for resident trout in the

The Seattle Times

lower B. C. mainland."

Many of the rainbow caught in the stream are 14 inches long.

"That's first-class angling," Hatter said.

THE DIRECTOR of the State Game Department, John Biggs, agreed that increasing the height of Ross Lake would have a similar effect in this state. He said 700 deer that winter along the lake might be lost forever, that spawning beds in streams along the lake would be drowned.

In addition, Biggs warned that Ross Lake has a "narrow ecological balance." He said a new level might destroy the native wild fish that now make the lake one of the few in the state the Game Department does not have to stock.

"They have an irreplaceable value," Biggs said. "If we lose them, we lose them forever . . . This state has drawn heavily on its natural resources . . . many of our rivers have been dammed."

"Washington does not have many of these things to give away. It is not possible to place real values on what is left . . . not dollar values."

Biggs said he believed City Light would be satisfying only an interim power need of short duration.

"It will give you only a moment in time, and, in so doing, you would destroy forever this great resource," he said.

THE HEAD of a group called Run Out the Skagit Spoilers (ROSS), John Massey of Vancouver, B. C., and avid fly fisherman, said, "Nowhere on the lower B. C. mainland is there a stream so suitable for fly fishing."

Charles Dunham, of the **British Columbia Association of Naturalists**, said the Skag-

Friday, April 17, 1970

it River north of Ross Lake has growths of wild rhododendrons that are superior to all others in the province.

Howard Paish, an environmental consultant in Vancouver, said the Skagit River Valley in the province might have a recreational value of

\$250,000 a year. He said Canadians can fine flat-water recreation on the Gulf of Georgia and on a dozen other lakes in the Fraser River valley, all better and closer to people than would be the expanded Ross Lake.

William Hartley, a member of the province's Legislative Assembly, suggested the creation "of one great international park," including the North Cascades National Park and the Skagit Valley area within British Columbia.

David M. Brousson, another member of the Legislative Assembly, said:

"The City of Seattle should clearly understand that the public in British Columbia is overwhelmingly opposed to this flooding and that the federal members of Parliament from British Columbia, both Liberal and opposition (parties), are all opposed to it."

Brousson said the Canadian International River Improvements Act will require Seattle to seek the approval of Canadian national agencies for increasing the size of Ross Lake, even though the city and British Columbia already have agreed to terms of a lease under which Seattle will pay about \$35,000 a year for the 6,000 acres to be flooded.

Brousson said he believes Seattle's application, under the act, "would have a difficult time in Ottawa, to say the least."

HIGH JINX ON THE SKAGIT OR HIGH ROSS WON'T GO AWAY

by the Kerosene Kid

Did all you cats who spend a pleasant summer hiking, climbing, and camping in the North Cascades think Electric John and his staff had given up on High Ross Dam? Not by a Dam Site! Just because things have been a bit quieter at Your City Light, don't think they haven't been a busy batch of beavers. You see, they had half a million bucks to spend on "Engineering Studies," thanks to the generosity of Seattle's City Council. That's 500 grand, a respectable sum even in today's inflated dollars.

Wave a bait like that below the noses of our City Light bureaucrats, and the drooling would almost equal the flow of the Skagit at spring run-off. You can do so many interesting things with a wad of dough that big, especially when most of the actual design costs have already been met. Our agents were not able to get through Electric John's security screen to obtain an actual breakdown of how these "public" funds are being spent, but in the course of the summer we did learn of some interesting expenditures.

Item: City Light's loggers felled a medium-sized western redcedar (4' 6" diameter) on the banks of Big Beaver Creek 3 miles up-valley from Ross Lake. The purpose of this vandalism in the Ross Lake National Recreation Area was to create a helicopter landing site, so visiting wheels would not have to walk up the trail like the rest of us peons. No permit was obtained from the Park Service for the destruction of this young giant.

Item: City Light's surveyors have laid out grade stakes for a road from the North Cross-State Highway to the top of Ross Dam.

Item: Another survey team has marked the 1725-foot level all the way around Ross Lake. They were several weeks in Big Beaver Valley, camping first at Thirtyninemile Creek and later on the river below the 8-mile marker. They left all their boyscout-type woodcraft (tables, cabinets, john, etc) when they pulled out of this camp. No doubt figured the rising water would clean up the mess.

Item: Part of the 500 G's went toward the hiring of "consultants" and flying them in by helicopter for quickie studies of the effects of the High Ross Dam. See elsewhere in this issue a description by N3C member Joe Miller of his meeting in Big Beaver with such a team of consultants.

Item: City Light's outdoor recreation specialist, Dr. Grant Sharpe, continued his activities at the city trough. Working for him were a couple of fisheries "experts" who were known to have conducted studies in at least Big Beaver and Little Beaver drainages. They were ferried back and forth from Ross Dam in City Light's VIP boat, and when they camped at Tenmile Shelter, they were supplied by City Light's packer (described by Electric John as an engineer in his Civil Engineering Division). The purpose of the studies, of course, was to disprove the contention of the Department of Game that High Ross Dam would be destructive of trout-spawning grounds.

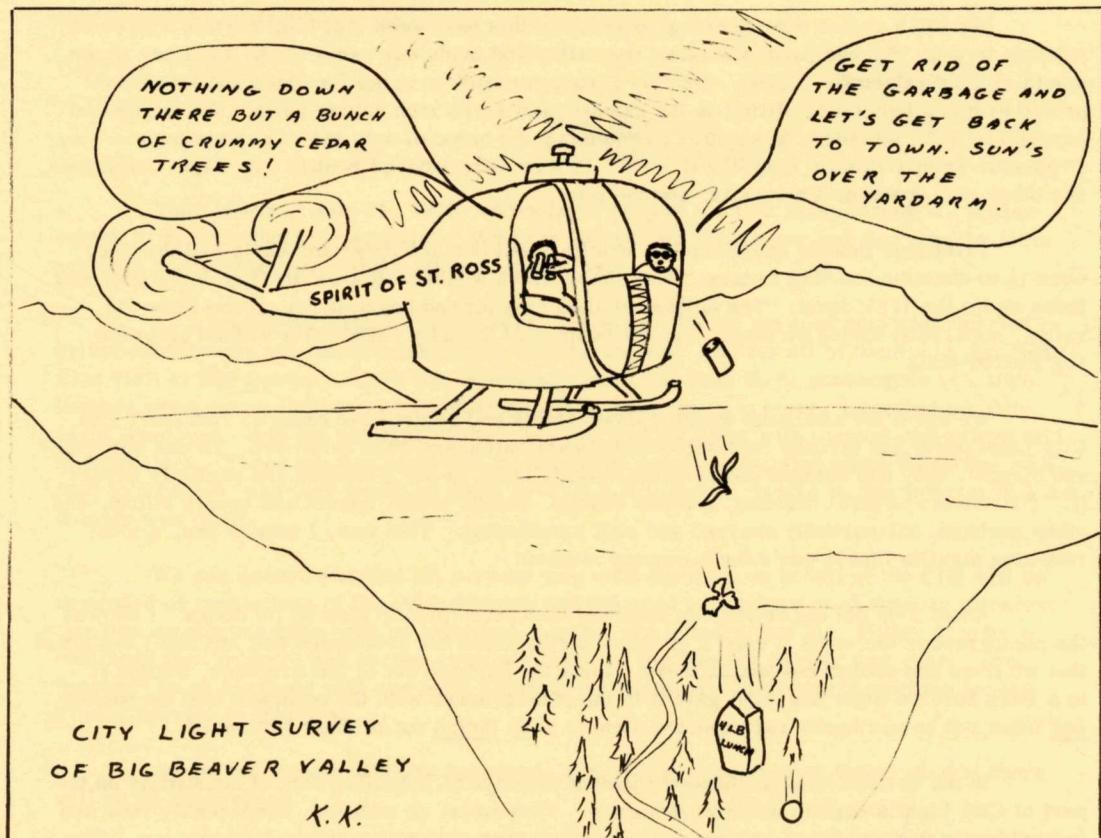
Item: City Light made valiant efforts to hire an ecologist at the University of British Columbia to do some studies for the utility. Why do you suppose they had trouble finding a Canadian scientist willing to accept a juicy share of those half-million American dollars? Well, there's a little string attached to the deal. The studies were to be carried out in such a way as to arrive at a predetermined conclusion. In other words, the ecologist was to "prove" that High Ross Dam would do no harm to the ecosystem in the Upper Skagit Valley. Real scientists do not work under these conditions, and the ecologists approached all turned down Electric John's emissaries. We understand that City Light finally had to settle for a hungry aquatic biologist. His objective report is eagerly awaited by the entire scientific community.

Item: Our City Light blew in a reported 15 of the 500 G's in its slush fund on hiring a firm of Vancouver forestry and recreation specialists -- F. F. Slaney & Co. -- to whip up a pretty brochure that tells how dandy flooding the Upper Skagit is going to be for the British Columbians. Then our busy utility hired a

Vancouver PR firm -- Ray Torresan & Associates -- to publicise the Slaney Report. Electric John denied hiring the PR firm, and since we're reasonably certain they aren't working for him for love, we must assume that he's channeling their share of the loot to them through Slaney & Co. Damn devious, what?

These are just the goodies we succeeded

in learning about. Penetrating the "Electric curtain" down at 1015-3rd Avenue isn't easy, and doubtless there are other fascinating expenditures we haven't uncovered. Legal costs in Canada, for example, must be substantial. You have to pay pretty high for legal opinions advising you to ignore the laws of the country in which you're premeditating the rape of a virgin valley.



\$\$ NEEDED \$50,000.00 TO FIGHT ROSS DAM (please see page 2) \$\$

NOTE FREUDIAN SLIP (?) at the bottom of page 38,
in the 3rd line, 5th paragraph (underline ours) - Ed.

Mr. Roger J. Contor
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

15405 SE 9th
Bellevue, Washington 98007
July 10, 1970

Dear Mr. Contor:

We just returned last evening from our second investigative trip of the summer into Big Beaver Valley. Detailed reports will be forthcoming after we have had an opportunity to identify our collections and analyze our findings. We feel the two trips have been rather productive.

We had a rather disconcerting experience this past week that I am certain will be of interest to you. We had back-packed up the valley and made our camp on the sand-bar at the mouth of Thirtyninemile Creek. On July 7 we came back to camp for lunch and were surprised to find a helicopter sitting on the sandbar and seven men having lunch. We introduced ourselves, and I am sorry to say that I remember the name of only one of our visitors -- Professor Barney Dowdle from the U. of W. There were several Seattle City Light employees, one other man from the University, and the pilot.

Professor Dowdle questioned us briefly about our activities and explained that they were in to examine the "big cedars," both those which would be flooded by High Ross Dam and those above the 1725' level. The helicopter then took off and began flying up and down the valley, apparently taking pictures, and the balance of the City Light party walked up to the Big Beaver trail.

We spent the afternoon working down-valley and returned to camp at 4:00 pm. The City Light party had already completed their examination and been flown out. To our surprise and disgust, they had dumped the remains of their lunch in our fireplace and partially burned it. There were several bananas, a whole orange, orange peels, carrot and celery sticks, and other garbage, all partially charred and still smoldering. This was, I assure you, a most revolting sight to find in one's back-country kitchen!

About 5:00 pm the helicopter returned with three men to pick up its doors. I showed the photographer the mess (I used a stronger term) which his associates had left and I explained that we lived and cooked our meals there. I dug the garbage out of the fireplace, stuffed it in a Park Service litter bag, and gave it to the photographer with the comment that we packed our litter out on our backs and expected them to pack theirs out in their helicopter.

In my opinion, this unpleasant incident displays an appalling lack of sensitivity on the part of City Light's staff to wilderness values. They were, in addition, unspeakably rude and inconsiderate to dump their garbage into a cooking area obviously used by backpackers. The packer who had set up and removed the camp used by the City Light survey team on this same sand-bar obviously has a much better appreciation of wilderness living than his employers. He had done a most creditable clean-up job.

You may wish to call the above incident to City Light's attention and urge a stricter compliance with Park Service standards for the use of back-country.

Most sincerely,

Joseph W. Miller

Joseph W. Miller

CITY OF SEATTLE
DEPARTMENT
OF LIGHTING

CITY LIGHT BUILDING • 1015 THIRD AVENUE • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104 • Telephone MAIN 3-7600

JOHN M. NELSON, Superintendent
MEMBER, BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

August 12, 1970

Mr. Roger J. Contor, Superintendent
National Park Service
North Cascades National Park
Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284

Dear Mr. Contor:

Ross High Dam
Your Reference A38

Your letter of July 21, 1970, enclosing a copy of a letter from Joseph W. Miller comes to us as a shocking surprise. We have looked into the matter and find that the facts are true and we owe you and the Millers an apology.

As a matter of further clarification, however, the six persons who were ferried in by helicopter were all consultants for the City except one, and for all of them this was their first visit to Big Beaver. Since the helicopter could only haul three passengers at a time, lunches were put up in two cardboard boxes. The first group to leave, including the City Light employee, took the remains of their lunches and all litter with them on the return trip to Newhalem. Three lunches were left for the three people remaining since there was still food to be eaten and they would be there several hours more. It was in this interim that the damage was done.

We can assure you that all persons who visit the area on behalf of the City will be reminded of regulations of the Park Service and the need to practice good outdoor manners. Our own employees have been so informed, and we are pleased that Mr. Miller saw fit to commend the "packer" and survey crew who were in Big Beaver earlier this year. The "packer" is an engineer with our civil Engineering Division who formerly working for the Forest Service in that area.

Again, we regret that this happened, and will increase our vigilance so that there will be no recurrence.

Yours very truly,

John M. Nelson

JOHN M. NELSON
Superintendent of Lighting

AN EXAMPLE OF 1984 'DOUBLETHINK'?

Sun., Oct. 11, 1970 Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Raising Ross Dam Hailed as Recreation Aid

BY SUE HUTCHISON

A report done in Canada for City Light on the recreation potential of raising High Ross Dam was called an example of 1984 "double-think" last week by a local conservationist.

The report was prepared by F. F. Slaney & Co., Limited, a Vancouver forestry and recreation consultant. City Light paid \$15,000 for the report.

It forecasts that adding 122.5 feet to Ross Dam would double the recreation capacity of the Skagit River Valley in Canada.

The rise in the reservoir behind the new dam would flood 9.5 miles of the Skagit River, which is freeflowing above Ross Lake. City Light wants to raise the dam to provide an additional 272,000 kilowatts of power.

Brock Evans, Northwest representative of the Sierra Club and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, hailed the report with the words:

"1984 is here already — 14 years early." He explained: "The idea that destroying something good that is already there can make it twice as good is double-think."

His comment referred to the flooding of the Skagit River, now free-flowing above Ross Lake.

The conclusions of the Slaney report center on the fact that raising the dam will extend Ross Lake into Canada, giving British Columbia a freshwater lake eight miles long in summer and five miles long at extreme low water in the winter.

Slaney states that the B.C. agreement with City Light calls for removal of all stumps on flat ground, so that the winter drawdown area will not be cluttered with stumps.

In winter, he says the drawdown area will be covered by snow. During May and June, the report says, the area will look like:

"The natural seashore of the Pacific Ocean when the tide is out."

The lake will cover 5,200 acres when the pool is brought to its maximum level at 1,725-foot elevation. Its shoreline will be 22 miles long.

Other conclusions of the report are:

- The park-like forest above the 1,725-foot elevation and the islands in the reservoir will make the area more attractive for hiking and viewing wildlife.

- The timberland lost will not effect the sustained harvest in the region because it hasn't been included in the allowable cut.

- The rhododendrons which grow within the reservoir site can be easily transplanted to proposed campsites and along the access road which City Light has agreed to relocate.

- Fishery studies haven't been completed but there are indications that spawning gravel above the reservoir is ample to continue natural regeneration. The report also notes that the natural fishery is expected to decline whether the dam is raised or not.

- Studies haven't been completed on the impact on the deer herd which grazes the river valley for summer range.

- The lake would provide clean, clear water for swimming, fast becoming a rare resource on the lower mainland. It would offer much more use to boaters than the present reservoir, which often recedes into the U.S.

- A greater variety of campgrounds can be developed along new road and lake then can be developed along the present road and river.

- Many new picnic sites can be developed along the road which will be more scenic because it would be at a higher elevation.

- Hunting will be incompatible with the more intensive use.

The report notes that provincial parks now within driving distance of Vancouver are operating at maximum capacity. Therefore, it concludes Ross Reservoir will be in great demand.

The report estimates that 10,000 people use the valley now in Canada, but that the use would decline to about 7,000 because of decreased fish and game populations.

The reservoir could provide recreation for 15,000 people Slaney estimates.

Evans was outspoken in his response to that projection. He said:

"This assumes expenditure of public funds to develop it. They could have parks there now, campgrounds there now, but they don't."

"Sure, it will provide a pleasant environment if you don't mind mud during drawdown."

The report itself says:

"One responsible minister has said that the Provincial Government might spend about \$500,000 in developing Skagit Park over the next 10 years."

But it also notes that development has been slow in existing provincial parks.

Other reaction to the report locally was slight since few have seen it. Patrick Goldsworthy, an outspoken critic of the raising of the dam, commented:

"It seems most irregular that the city of Seattle would permit its money to be spent for a public relations report of this nature."

Mayor Wes Uhlman, who had not seen the report, defended its preparation, however. He said:

"I don't think there should be a limit on the spending for studies on the impact of the dam. We want to satisfy ourselves and Canada that there will be no major environmental damage."

Published Canadian response to the report has been critical.

Times readers have their say:

Why pick on successful City Light?

Editor, The Times:

YOU are to be commended for your forthright statements in "Indecision at City Hall" (The Times, September 4).

What is puzzling a great many of your readers is: Why all the furor about Seattle City Light, which has been successfully operated in the interest of its customers under the present Charter arrangement over a long period of years to the satisfaction of said customers who pay the bills?

Where did Douglass North get all the wisdom he attempts to display about operating an electric utility?

His charge that City Light has been self-run without effective supervision by the City Council does not add anything to his ability as an electric-utility consultant.

It is safe to say that if what he has recommended had been in effect during these many years of Seattle City Light's successful operation, City Light would have been bankrupt a long time ago.

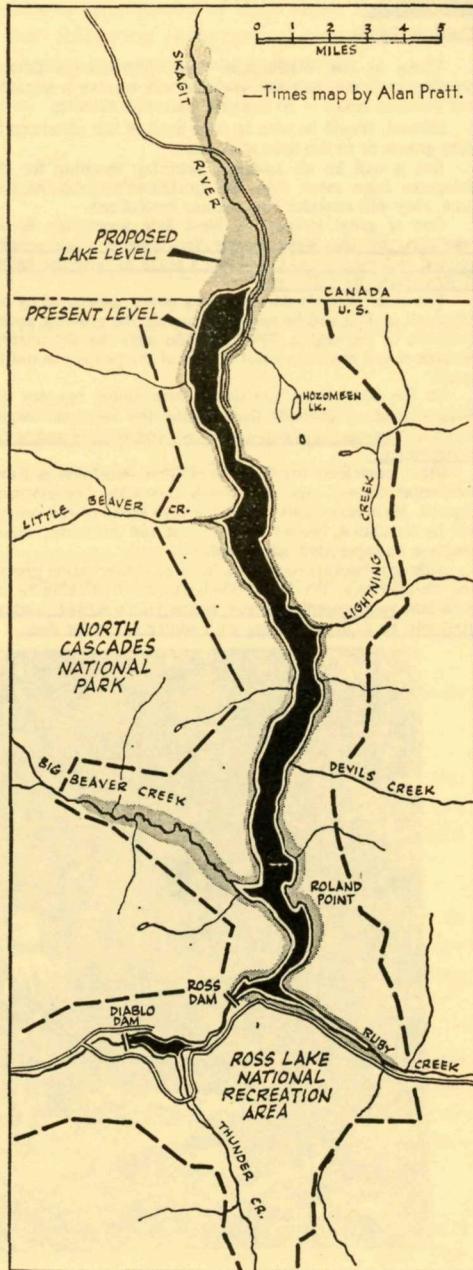
This whole thing raises a serious question: Who is so all-fired anxious to strangle City Light? ...

A number of years ago a mayor was recalled for his unsuccessful attempt to scuttle Seattle City Light.

Let's begin to get some common sense at City Hall.

—ROBERT C. RODRUCK,
900 Denny Bldg.

Here's our old friend, Constant Letter Writer Robbie C. Rodruck, at it again. You'll remember Robbie from our last Ross Dam issue (April, 1970 Wild Cascades.) He was the venerable gent who helped get Mayor Frank Edwards recalled back in the 30's for his audacity in firing St. Ross. Look out, Mayor Uhlman, Robbie appears to be threatening you with the same fate if you dare buck Electric John.



F 8 The Seattle Times
Thursday, September 17, 1970

Brad O'Connor



Dam on agenda of sportsmen

Outdoor Editor

Those at the Washington State Sportsmen's Council meeting in Omak over the weekend will receive a negative but welcome bonus — no banquet Saturday evening.

Instead, they'll be able to take most of the afternoon to hunt grouse or to fish area streams.

But it will be all business Saturday morning for the delegates from more than 100 sportsmen's clubs. At that time, they will consider five regular resolutions.

One of great interest to West Side sportsmen is the resolution by the West Seattle Sportsmen's Club seeking council endorsement of City Light's plans to raise the height of Ross Dam by 12½ feet.

The club contends that the extra power generated by the proposed project will be needed to supply the growing power demands of the region. The club also says the detrimental ecological and environmental effects of the project would be small.

On the other hand, the Game Department opposes the Ross project on grounds that raising the reservoir would result in "far-reaching damage to fish and wildlife and to the environment."

Other opponents are the Sierra Club, Washington Environmental Council and the North Cascades Conservation Council. Main objections are that a rare stand of red cedars will be inundated, beaver colonies lost and low water would create a stamp-dotted wasteland.

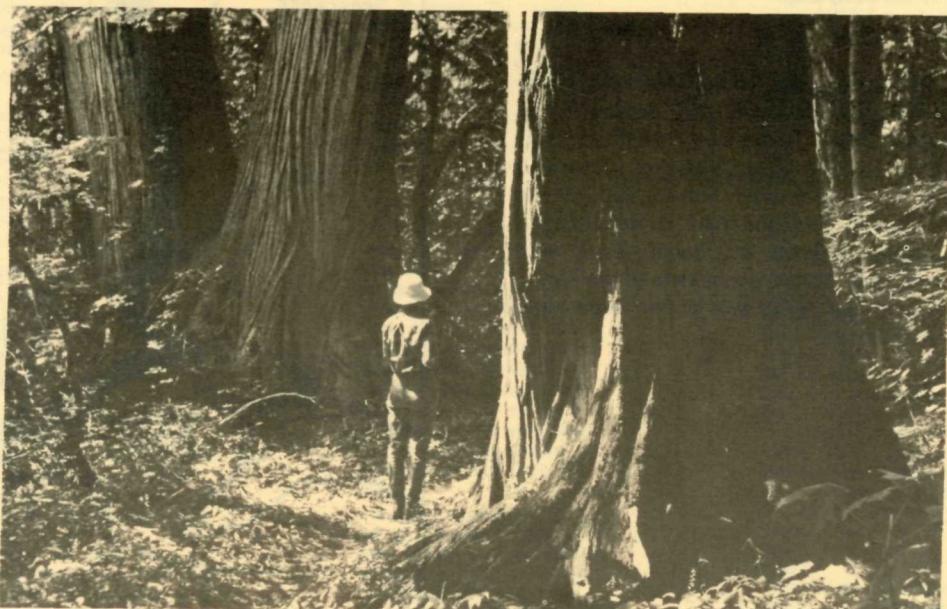
Although backers say some fears of conservation groups are exaggerated, the Game Department is sticking to its guns that vast spawning areas for the lake's native rainbow trout will be destroyed along with winter range for deer.

HIGH ROSS SUPPORT FAILS

This was an interesting little attempt by some City Light fifth columnists in the West Seattle Sportsmen's Club to pressure the State Game Department into dropping its opposition to High Ross. Say the West Seattle Sports in their letter to the Council: "For some time we had been confused by the many statements being made by anti-Ross Dam addition people. To end this confusion, we asked Prof. Grant Sharpe to speak and show his pictures."

Isn't that nice? Such an objective way to reach a conclusion! You can be certain they didn't ask anybody from our side to speak to them.

Anyway the gambit failed. The West Seattle Sports quietly withdrew their resolution. Perhaps clearer heads on the State Sportsmen's Council told them not to be such damfools.



Western Redcedars in Big Beaver Valley - J. W. Miller

HIGH ROSS OPPOSITION WINS

Sponsored By: Association of Northwest Steelheaders
Washington Fly Fishing Club

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION No. 1270-E2

Preamble: The Washington State Sportsmens Council, Inc. is an amalgamation of organized sportsmen's clubs concerned with conservation of natural resources in the State of Washington.

Whereas: The Seattle City Lighting Department proposes to raise Ross Dam 125 feet to provide additional hydro-electric power; and;

Whereas: The increased height of the level of Ross Lake will flood out 6,350 acres of Skagit River Valley, drowning one of the best fly-fishing streams in British Columbia, and destroying the natural spawning stream which is adequate to maintain the fish population of Ross Lake without stocking; and;

Whereas: The Washington State Department of Game predicts that no suitable "Wildlife" restitution lands of a value equal to those which will be inundated are available in the Ross Lake area, and estimates the Department would have to go elsewhere to locate and acquire 3,500 acres of substitute lands to manage; and;

Whereas: The unique ecosystem of the Big Beaver Creek, with its last remaining stands of valley bottom, old-growth Western Red Cedar, will be flooded and destroyed; and;

Whereas: The popular opinion of British Columbia residents is vehemently opposed to the inundation of the last of the province's lower mainland river valley recreation areas, and the Canadian Federal Government now disapproves of the agreement between Seattle City Light and the province of British Columbia; and;

Whereas: City Light has several feasible and economically advantageous alternatives to heightening Ross Dam such as (1) installing additional generators at Boundary Dam, (2) purchasing peaking power from Bonneville Power Administration at one-half the cost of producing peak power, (3) using cost incentives to reduce customer peak hour demands.

Now Therefore be it Resolved by the Washington State Sportsmens Council in Convention assembled this 13th Day of December 1970 at Bellevue, Washington, that the Washington State Sportsmens Council, Inc., oppose increasing the height of Ross Dam because of the irreparable injury resulting to the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, its fish and wildlife populations and its peculiar and unique ecological system.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Seattle City Council and Mayor, the Department of Ecology, the Washington State Department of Game, and The British Columbia Wildlife Federation, et al, known as R. O. S. S.

The "clearer heads" went home from the September meeting of the Washington State Sportsmens Council to do their homework and gather more information.

The "clearer heads" took the initiative this time, however. They must have presented their arguments against the raising of Ross Dam in a more convincing manner than Professor Grant Sharpe did his arguments in support of High Ross Dam, since the following emergency resolution was passed by an overwhelming vote.

Costs versus Benefits of Increased Electric Power

Typical estimates of future demand for electric power in the United States assume a continuation of the previous rate of growth; power consumption eight times that of the present is projected for the year 2000. Little attention is devoted to the anatomy of the future demand. It is pointed out that population is growing, the gross national product is expanding, and energy demands are expected to increase. However, it is physically impossible for exponential growth to continue indefinitely. Already it is apparent that the generation and distribution of electricity entails some damage to the environment. Utilities can be expected to minimize the damage through the use of cleaner fuels, better siting, and underground transmission of power. However, some problems will persist. If conventional fuels are employed, the increased demands on them will speed exhaustion of oil and gas, and the use of large quantities of coal is likely to despoil large areas. Nuclear power carries with it many risks. Thus the utilities can expect to face continuing opposition in their efforts to expand power generation. The outcome of the battle is likely to rest on a balancing of social costs versus benefits to the consumer.

Much of the electric power goes to industry and to commercial use. However, the public is most immediately affected by that part going to individual consumers, and the electorate is likely to base many of its attitudes on personal experience.

If private consumers were to increase their use of power by a factor of 8 by the year 2000, where would the demand come from? Only a small fraction of the increase would come from population growth. There continues to be a proliferation of electrical gadgetry, but power consumption by most of these devices is trivial. For example, an electric razor consumes only a kilowatt hour per year, which is less than an air-conditioned house uses in an hour. In general, the devices that are used intermittently consume only modest amounts annually. Major items and their approximate typical annual consumption in kilowatt hours are color television, 500; lighting, 600; electric range, 1200; frost-free refrigerator-freezer, 1700; freezer, 1700; water heater, 3500; air conditioning, 5000; home heating, 20,000.

Science, vol. 170, Dec. 1970

The more affluent segments of society already have about all the television sets, lighting, and cooling that they can use. Future expansion in public power consumption is dependent on an increased standard of living by the less affluent and on widespread adoption of electricity for home heating. At present only about 3.5 million homes are heated electrically; the major potential market is in home heating. Utilities are responding to the public's concern about pollution by extolling the virtues of clean heat. They soft-pedal the fact that the pollution problem is merely transferred elsewhere. However, it is technically much more feasible to eliminate pollution at a few major emitters than in millions of individual homes. Another consideration is the thermodynamic inefficiency introduced when electrical energy is dissipated resistively. However, if heat pumps were utilized at the homes, the overall efficiency would be acceptable. So-called all-electric living has a major disadvantage that should not be overlooked. It makes society terribly vulnerable to power failure, especially in winter.

The era of unquestioned exponential growth in electric power has come to an end. The future course of expansion will be determined by the public's estimate of costs versus benefits.—PHILIP H. ABELSON

IMPORTANT

The Seattle Times
Thursday, October 15, 1970

City Hall

Bonds sold at high rate

The City Council yesterday sold \$20 million worth of bonds at 7.175 per cent interest to a group of New York investors in order to buy 8 per cent of the new Centralia coal-fired power plant.

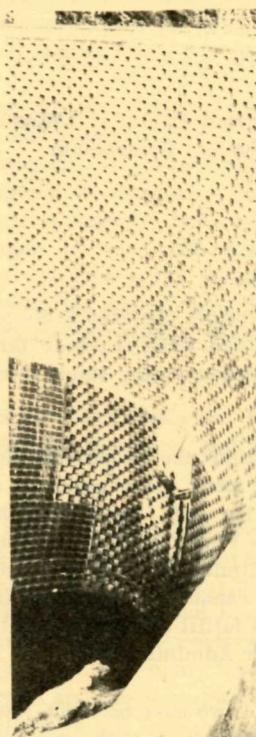
It was the highest interest rate ever paid by the city on bonds to finance City Light projects.

The tax-exempt bonds were sold to a consortium of New York firms head by Smith, Barney & Co.

John Nelson, City Light superintendent, said the city had agreed to buy 8 per cent of the Centralia plant, with money due for the purchase by November 1.

The plant is expected to produce power by next year. City Light plans to sell its share of the power output to California utilities for 10 years, Nelson said.

After that, Seattle is expected to need the power output itself.



The Seattle Times
Wednesday, October 28, 1970

City Hall

Thrust Bonds go at record interest

By DAVID SUFFIA

The City Council sold \$23.2 million worth of Forward Thrust general-obligation bonds yesterday at a record interest of 7.3166 per cent. The interest will cost Seattle taxpayers \$48 million over the next 40 years.

Councilmen split 6 to 3 in approving the bond sale that will pay for \$17 million in storm and sanitary-sewer separation, \$3.2 million worth of fire stations and \$3 million worth of neighborhood improvements.

"That's an awfully high rate. It frightens me," Philip Buswell, principal assistant city engineer, said. "That's the highest rate ever for the city."

The low bidder on the bonds was the Morgan Guaranty and Trust Co. & Associates.

Do the above two news stories ring any bells with you? They should -- LOUD AND CLEAR! They substantiate what consulting engineers on our side have told us and what we've been trying to tell the City Council -- that City Light has completely phonied up its cost figures on High Ross. The utility has based all its computations on the assumption that it would have to pay only 6% on bonds sold to finance construction.

We told them this was unrealistic -- these clippings bear us out. Rising construction costs make the \$45 million price tag for High Ross much too low. Rising interest rates tremendously increase the fixed carrying charge for the dam. We said all along it was a costly, uneconomic boondoggle. Bet the midnight oil is burning and the computers are overheating down at OUR CITY LIGHT as the staff tries to come up with new economic justifications for this monument to St. Ross.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER

Excerpts from

Speech delivered by Washington's Governor Daniel J. Evans before

Northwest Public Power Association Nuclear Symposium

Seattle, Washington

November 12, 1970



Transcription

My remarks aren't going to be really directed to the major subject you're here to discuss -- that of nuclear energy and the providing of power through nuclear energy. I'm going to speak on a broader topic; that of power policy itself -- not just nuclear power but total power policy....

First, let me reiterate that I think the Bonneville Power Commission and the system that it has helped to coordinate for so many years has been a real asset to this area and has helped us to grow and grow exceptionally well. But I think there is a time for a change and a very specific change in the Bonneville Power Administration's sales policy, particularly as they relate to industrial sales. With limited energy, and I suspect we all agree that there is going to be limited energy, we simply cannot plan progress in our state -- I cannot fulfill my responsibility and the legislature cannot fulfill its responsibility with unilateral decision-making power retained in the Bonneville Power Administration....

...if the state is not involved, if we have no input into some of the major energy policy decisions that are made at the federal level then we simply can't do the job that I believe we should be doing. That's why I say that some way in which the states of the Bonneville region could be involved as part of the decision-making, at least be aware of the decision-making and be able to point out to those who have the task of distributing limited energy what the consequences of that distribution would be then I think we'd be a lot further down the road than we are right now....

...I believe very strongly that we are going to ultimately have to work into an overall plan of projected sites or desirable sites or in some way to help guide the direction and the growth of thermal power plant sites rather than just sit back and react to the individual applications that come to us. And so, again, we are going to be in the field of doing a better and more comprehensive job of planning our own future in this state, and I am confident from my conversations with Governor McCall that Oregon intends to do essentially the same thing....

Now, let me turn to the second element beyond this one which I think again is very important, and this relates to conservation -- a term that is utilized more and more as we enter into this era of ecology which delights some of us and strains some others. We suffer under the penalties or the problems that environmentalists impose upon us, and yet I really believe that what we are seeing for the first time is a total citizens' recognition that 'biggest' just isn't necessarily 'best', and people are looking ahead to a high quality and are willing to pay, at least to a limited degree, for higher quality. Maybe it's a reflection on the affluence that we have generally built for ourselves and over a period of generations have finally arrived at a time when not all of our energies nor all of our resources must be put into just surviving.

We now have the privilege, if you will, of deciding where we are going to utilize some of our resources and some of our time and some of our energy, and to do it and to do it effectively, we simply are going to be called upon to provide higher quality -- higher quality in our natural environment and higher quality in our human environment. If conservation is a good word, and I believe it is, then I think it's about time we began to use it in conjunction with energy. Instead of forever going out and advertising as I see us do all the time -- advertising to convince people to utilize more energy, more electrical energy, maybe it's about time we began to look at what we were doing. Is some of the demand for new energy -- is some of our prediction of energy-shortage ten years down the road coming from the very fact that we are out promoting unnecessary uses of energy?

Now, I've seen not too long ago advertising (I won't even identify who did the advertising, because I don't remember), but a local utility -- advertising the desirability of air-conditioning here in Western Washington. If there's anyplace in the country that has better natural air-conditioning than Western Washington, I don't know where it is. Sure, there are a few days when air-conditioning is necessary, and perhaps it's even necessary in a modern-day office, but if this is an example, at least, and perhaps not even the best example, of the fact that we simply are going to have to look at the utilization of energy, how much we literally can afford to advertise and promote and where these needs really are and where we should attempt to prioritize needs. I think conservation of energy is highly desirable, but beyond that, it's absolutely necessary....

Now, there are wastes of our very important resources, and I believe strongly that there is waste of our electrical energy resource, and we better get at the job of doing something about that waste.

I've been criticized every time I've given this speech, and I've done it a number of times -- almost invariably by someone who comes up afterwards and suggests that that is hardly American or at least something close to that -- invariably when I talk to the person who complained I find out that he works for a utility of one kind or another, so for loyalty they can't be faulted! But I suggest that more research be centered on how to do things with less energy -- not more -- electrical energy. And you know, this applies to energy just as much as it applies to the recycling of materials and the conservation in a number of other ways. In fact, I rather suspect that if we had effective and total recycling of such things as aluminum containers, it would cost a lot less in the way of electrical energy to recycle some of those than it does to produce the material in the first place.

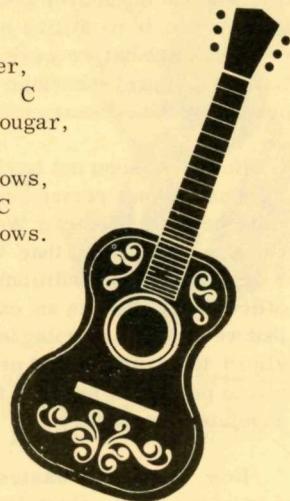


Beaver Pond Reflections in Big Beaver Valley - J. W. Miller

SKAGIT VALLEY FOREVER

Words & Music by Malvina Reynolds*

C F
There's a fine green valley not far from Vancouver,
G C
The home of the black bear, the marten and the cougar,
F
It's the tree-rich valley where the Skagit River flows,
G G7 C
A home for God's creatures since Heaven only knows.



F C
Skagit Valley, Skagit Valley,
G C
Ray Williston is selling you away,
F C
Skagit Valley, Skagit Valley,
G
They would turn you to a mud pond,
Dm G7 C
To run the Coca Cola coolers in Seattle, U. S. A.



Well, the parks are getting fewer, and the trees are getting thin,
And the cities are spreading out to take the wildwood in,
And the world is getting poorer with every mile they clear,
And they'd sell our Skagit acres for five dollars fifty cents a year.

Skagit Valley, Skagit Valley,
Ray Williston is selling you away,
Skagit Valley, Skagit Valley,
They would turn you to a mud pond,
To run the Coca Cola coolers, in Seattle, U. S. A.

Oh my sisters and brothers in this shining Northern land,
It's time to get together, to take each others' hand,
And ring around our wilderness to keep the gangs away
Who would ravage our sweet country for a shameful pocketful of pay.

Skagit Valley, Skagit Valley,
No grabber will have you for a prize.
Skagit Valley, Skagit Valley
We'll let no vandal drown you,
We'll keep you as we found you,
B. C.'s forest paradise.



Copyright 1970 Schroder Music Company ASCAP
No restriction on non-commercial use

* Other songs by Malvina Reynolds: LITTLE BOXES, GOD BLESS THE GRASS, CEMENT OCTOPUS, THE FAUCETS ARE DRIPPING, 70 MILES, FROM WAY UP HERE.

1729 NE 56th Street
Seattle, Washington 98105
November 25, 1970

Mr. Pat Goldsworthy
3215 NE 103rd
Seattle, Washington 98125

RE: I-90 LAWSUIT

Dear Pat:

In filing suit to stop the work on Interstate Highway-90, west of Snoqualmie Pass, we had two purposes:

1. To protect the environment in the area of Denny Creek, Franklin Falls, and Asahel Curtis Memorial Grove.
2. To show that the National Environmental Policy Act applies even though the route hearing was held before the N. E. P. A. took effect.

While Judge Beeks refused to grant the temporary injunction that we asked, the case is on appeal and our chance for success remains good. Judge Beeks ruled that there was no evidence presented to indicate that Congress had intended for the NEPA to be retroactive. We have since acquired the committee report on the act, and there is much evidence which we intend to present to the Court. Further, former assistant Transportation Secretary Braman has offered to assist us in our efforts with an affidavit.

Secretary of Transportation Volpe admitted in a letter that they had not complied with the NEPA. During the court hearing, the state highway director admitted that the Federal Government was not committed to the project until May of 1970, five months after the NEPA took effect. Judge Beeks still ruled that since the route hearing had been held in 1967, the act did not apply, since it took effect on January 1, 1970. We believe that it is imperative to overturn this ruling, since route hearings have been held all over the country for projects that have not yet commenced.

One has to be terribly impressed in reading the NEPA report over how concerned Congress was with our environmental deterioration, and we don't believe they intended that it be circumvented by a technicality. While it is unfortunate that the Courts must resolve these matters, the alternative is difficult to swallow.

The cost of the lawsuit is very small (\$3,000), compared to the gains, and I hope we can find enough people willing to donate a small amount to the effort.

Very truly yours,

R. J. Brooks

R. J. Brooks

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS, IN ANY AMOUNT TO:

Save Denny Creek-Franklin Falls Fund
c/o North Cascades Conservation Council
3215 Northeast 103rd Street
Seattle, Washington 98125



SEATTLE

Post-Intelligencer

THE VOICE OF THE NORTHWEST

The Ross Controversy

A P-I View: A decision on the raising of Ross Dam should be deferred.

Seattle, Monday, December 14, 1970

The long-simmering controversy surrounding Seattle City Light's goal of increasing the height of Ross Dam, on the Skagit River, is nearing the boiling point.

Seattle's City Council is expected to vote today on a proposal to petition the Federal Power Commission for authority to raise the dam an additional

122.5 feet, at an estimated construction cost of \$45 million.

The higher dam would add 234,000 kilowatts of power to the present energy output of 2,240,000 kilowatts, or an increase in peak power capacity of approximately 10 percent.

Strong opposition to the project has developed around an axis of conservationists, outraged at the prospect of a ravaged environment and ecology in the upper Skagit Valley.

Opponents of high Ross are particularly incensed at the thought of watching the dam's back-up reservoir submerge the Big Beaver Creek area, which teems with wildlife including beaver, otter, bear, elk and mink, as well as one of the nation's few remaining stands of giant red cedar trees.

North of the border, up Canada way, many British Columbia residents are clamoring against the project because it will result in the flooding of some 6,000 additional acres within the Canadian province.



Alternatives to the raising of Ross Dam include development by City Light of new nuclear or fossil fuel generating facilities, to avert predicted power shortages over the next decade.

On principle, we oppose the raising of Ross, on grounds that it would severely damage if not destroy one of the Pacific Northwest's truly majestic natural assets. As laymen, however, we acknowledge our lack of expertise on power needs and the economics involved in the Ross Dam controversy.

Members of the City Council, however, also are laymen when it comes to the complexities of this power fight.

Several months ago the City Council's Utility Committee held a series of public hearings into City Light policies, assisted by Dr. Douglas North, chairman of the University of Washington's Department of Economics.

IN DR. NORTH'S summary, at the conclusion of the hearings, he declared that the Council members "lack adequate information" to reach a decision on raising Ross. He further said that "the City Council has neither the time nor the expertise to serve as a genuine board of advisors" to City Light.

Dr. North proposed that the Council appoint a board of advisors comprised of experts in engineering, accounting, economics and other fields to evaluate City Light policy on Ross Dam and other projects.

In the interest of the public welfare, we suggest that City Light defer a decision on Ross Dam, at least until more information is collected and analyzed by objective advisers, along the line proposed by Dr. North.

City Hall

Council Shy On Ross Dam

BY MIKE CONANT
P-I Staff

Behind what may prove to be a death struggle between conservationists and the electrical lobby over the raising of Ross Dam is a darker, deeper reality than mere charges of politics and wilderness exploitation.

It is that Seattle has not come to grips yet with what form it believes City Light policy should take if it is to survive, and what the city's contribution to that form should take.

To understand the storm over whether to raise Ross Dam another 12½ feet to provide needed power — and thereby flood out valuable timberlands — one must first trace the stream of invective back to its fountainhead.

The facts are these:

City Light, capitalizing on an abundance of Northwest river water, the cheapest power generating force available, has been able to build a utility that is revered by the people because of its low power rates and regarded by many electrical experts as the finest utility in the nation.

In fact, many years ago a Seattie mayor was recalled because he dared toy with the utility's plans — an outburst that has never been forgotten by subsequent mayors and city councilmen who depend upon the public sentiment for re-election.

In the late 1960s it became obvious to many that the public power-minded City Light was on a collision course with a new breed of American — the environmentalist.

For example, the utility has a rate structure that even some of its supporters admit is calculated to encourage increased use of electricity — resulting in the need to do such things as raise Ross Dam — at a time when conservation and zero population growth are becoming symbols of this era's concerns.

Some months ago the City Council Utility Committee, reacting to public pressure, held a long, detailed series of public hearings into City Light policy, aided by a paid consultant — Douglass North, chairman of the Department of Economics at the University of Washington.

At the conclusion of the hearings, Professor North wrote a summary in which he concluded that councilmen "lack adequate information" to make a determination on the need to raise Ross Dam.

"It is evident and probably inevitable that City Light has been completely self run without any effective checks provided by the City Council," Professor North said.

"The City Council has neither the time nor the expertise to serve as a genuine board of advisers."

Professor North recommended the City Council appoint a board of advisers, responsible to the council and comprised of experts in engineering, accounting, economics and other fields, to provide the needed knowledge to evaluate City Light policies.

The recommendation was quickly swept under the rug by the council, which fears City Light and its historic public sentiment. Mayor Wes Uhlman, who apparently is not afraid, moved to block raising Ross Dam in an effort to appease the political punch of nation-wide environmentalists.

Neither City Light, the City Council nor Mayor Uhlman knows from data available what the best course is to take. The upshot is that whatever happens will undoubtedly be a political decision — and the public has a way of getting bombed by political decisions.

B.C. solon urges dam compromise

A British Columbia legislator who has been a leader in the campaign against Seattle's High Ross Dam project yesterday recommended the city and Canadians attempt to work out a compromise to avoid a bitter and prolonged across-the-border fight.

David M. Brousson, a liberal member of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly, said he believes the two nations can come to an agreement under which Seattle would get the electricity it needs and the Skagit Valley, which would be flooded by High Ross, would be saved for B.C. residents.

"I THINK IT'S A SHAME we don't recognize those facts of life right now," Brousson added.

The legislator said he was not free to describe a possible compromise now, but he would later if government administrators do not.

Brousson said he has sent Mayor Wes Uhlman a telegram urging him to veto City Council action directing City Light to file an application for the High Ross work with the Federal Power Commission.

Although he has expressed disapproval of the High Ross work, Uhlman has said he will not veto the Council's directive. The Council vote Monday was 6 to 2, and if the six affirmative votes do not change the Council would be able to override an Uhlman veto.

BROUSSON SAID his telegram added: "Many thousands of Canadians and American citizens deeply regret the action of the City Council to override your statesman-like position on the flooding of the Skagit Valley."

Brousson said he believed the City Council vote may prompt the Canadian federal government to act on the Skagit Valley project. He said he has been told the federal cabinet has decided on action it may take, but that it was not prepared to announce it now.

The legislator said he has written the City Council recommending a two-nation meeting aimed at reaching a compromise.

"This will rage on for years and (Seattle) won't get the power," Brousson said. "If they would recognize that and call for the meetings I think a pretty good compromise could be reached"

John Nelson, superintendent of City Light, yesterday said he would file the application with the F.P.C. on or shortly after the effective date of the ordinance—in about 30 days.



DAVID M. BROUSSON

YANKEE AGGRESSOR

JOHN NELSON

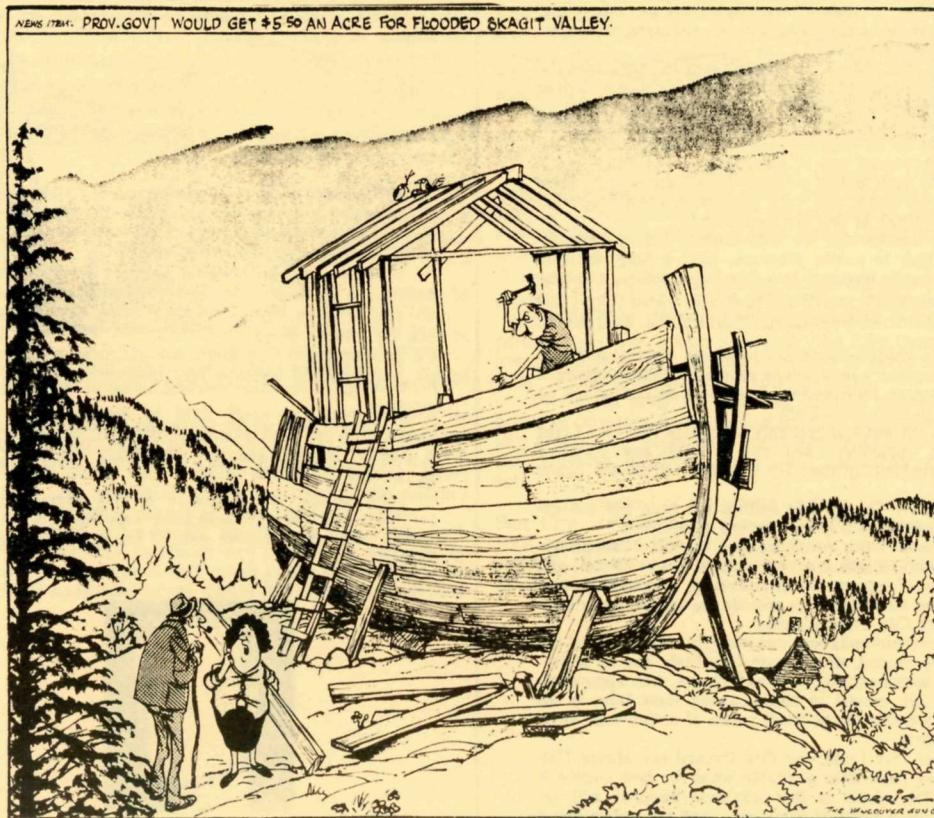
GO HOME

We spoke earlier of the civilized restraint shown by Canadian witnesses who made the long trip down from British Columbia to testify at the City Council's hearings last spring. That restraint seems to have given way to a cold fury as City Light stubbornly goes ahead with its plans to flood out the Upper Skagit.

The resentment of the Canadians has been intensified by City Light's beginning the contract logging of a square mile of land in the Upper Skagit Valley which the Utility bought back in 1929. Our northern neighbors rightfully regard this premature action as the boldest type of American imperialism.

The clippings that follow express better than we can the vast amount of international ill-will that a few bull-headed bureaucrats are busily creating. The suggestion by a letter writer to the Vancouver Sun plants the seed of an idea that is sure to grow -- a boycott of Canadian spending in the State of Washington. He feels that merchants in Blaine, Bellingham and Seattle deprived of their usual share of Canadian dollars, will bring City Light to its senses. Mutual good-will is essential to the economic and social relations between Washington and British Columbia, and our Seattle Department of Lighting is doing its very utmost to destroy a hundred years of friendship.

NEWS ITEM: PROV. GOVT. WOULD GET \$5.50 AN ACRE FOR FLOODED SKAGIT VALLEY.



"... and in this dream Premier Bennett was multiplying \$5.50 by the total acreage of B.C. . . ."

October 6, 1970

Mayor Wes Uhlman
Office of the Mayor
City of Seattle
Washington, U. S. A.

The Penthouse
Board of Trade Tower
1177 West Hastings Street
Vancouver 1, B. C.

Dear Mayor Uhlman:

I hope that the enclosed copies of recent newspaper reports will serve to assure you that so far as we Canadians are concerned the fight to save the Skagit Valley from further inundation is far from over.

Also I think you should know that the present actions of Seattle City Light are causing a rising tide of bitterness among Canadians.

Your utility's refusal to acknowledge the necessity for Canadian Federal Government approval before proceeding with the flooding is seen as nothing less than high-handed Yankee arrogance and an affront to Canadian sovereignty. The fact that they are already logging in the valley, before the Federal Power Commission hearings have even been held, is not only an act of desecration but of impudence.

Our National Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is on record as having said, "If desired, legislation can be introduced to prevent flooding of the Skagit Valley in Canada". It is our unalterable purpose to convince the Minister of the correctness of this course.

MLA David Brousson is in Ottawa at the moment talking to Cabinet Ministers and Senator Nichol, with whom I had a long conversation two days ago, left for Ottawa yesterday with the declared purpose of using his influence to prevent further flooding of the valley.

In these circumstances we urge that Seattle City Light desist from its present actions, at least until the Canadian Government and the Federal Power Commission have approved the project.

Yours truly,

John Massey, Chairman
The R. O. S. S. Committee

Somebody down there cares

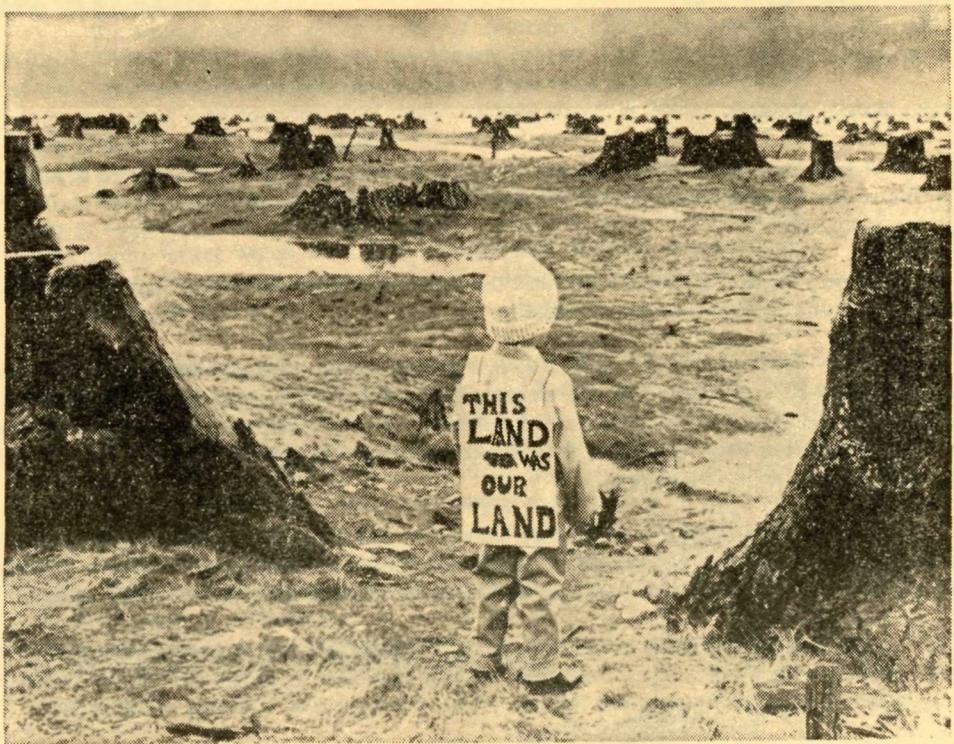
The opposition to the flooding of the Skagit Valley that is growing in high public places in the state of Washington should do much to reaffirm the respect which British Columbians have long held for their next-door neighbors as considerate people.

There are no votes up here for people such as Seattle's new mayor, Wes Uhlman, or John Biggs, director of the state's new ecology department, but one would like to think that altruism on the

order of their challenge to Seattle City Light carries rewards of its own.

There is no escaping the irony, of course, in the compassion which a man such as Wes Uhlman feels for "a beautiful wilderness valley" as opposed to the prodigality with which the ministers of the government of B.C. would abandon it. When taking cruel advantage of a willing victim is more than the exploiter can stomach, it says a lot about the qualities of those on both sides of the transaction.

Politics or Not,



—AP Wirephoto.

YOUNG CANADIAN WAS STUMPED BY LOOKS OF SKAGIT VALLEY NORTH OF ROSS DAM

Canadians protested City Light's plan to flood this valley by raising Ross Dam

BY SUE HUTCHISON

Conservationists on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border reacted strongly yesterday to the characterization of Canadian opposition to High Ross Dam as politically motivated.

Substantial opposition has developed in Canada to City Light's plan to raise Ross Dam 122.5 feet and thereby extend Ross Reservoir eight miles into Canada. Some 9 miles of the Skagit River would be flooded.

Seattle city officials have characterized the uproar as primarily a political play by the opposition parties in Canada to discredit the British Columbia government, led by the Social Credit party.

Patrick Goldsworthy, chairman of the North Cascades Conservation Council, argued yesterday that many conservation groups in Canada are extremely angry at the thought of flooding the Skagit Valley. He said:

"Many people have a real concern about this problem. They came down by their own choice to the hearings last spring to speak."

"British Columbia conservationists, in my experience, are extremely frustrated by the rapid onslaught on their natural resources and the attitude of the provincial government favoring full utilization of resources."

He said they feel conservation issues are being lost because of the provincial

government's attitudes and therefore, political and conservation issues are necessarily related.

From north of the border, Kenneth Farquharson, chairman of ROSS (Run Out Skagit Spoilers) commented on the anti-High Ross movement. He said:

"To paint this as a political battle is entirely wrong. There is a real upswell of people here against this and it cuts across party lines."

He said ROSS is about a year old and is composed of wildlife clubs, rod and gun clubs, mountaineers, college outdoor groups and the Society for Pollution and Environmental Control.

David Brousson, a Liberal member of the B.C. Provincial Assembly, admitted that he likes to find an ex-

cuse to discredit the current B.C. government. But he added:

"I feel strongly about environmental matters quite apart from politics. I am concerned that my grandchildren may have difficulty in 30 years finding any place with the qualities the Skagit Valley has now."

"I want to consider this before we drown it willy-nilly. If this were my own party doing this, I would be opposed to it."

He also said the economic agreement between the City of Seattle and the provincial government concerns him. He feels the terms are not favorable enough to British Columbia.

The agreement was drafted by the provincial government and agreed to by City Light.

Our River

The following editorial offers some of the Canadian viewpoints on the flooding of the Skagit River Valley. It was broadcast by commentator Ben Metcalfe on the Canadian Western Regional Network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The crunch is coming in the Skagit River Valley and the strategy of the Seattle City Light Co. is now perfectly transparent.

They know that they don't have a reason to flood our valley that's worth a tinker's damn so far as ordinary Canadians are concerned.

And so, to allow for that, they have created the nucle-

us of a fifth column in Canada itself to diffuse and confuse the issue here -- to make up in controversy what they lack in argument.

In other words, to cause Canadians to quarrel and bicker amongst themselves.

First they hired a Vancouver company of engineers -- F. F. Slaney & Co. to concoct a report on a so-called study.

Then they hired a Vancouver Public relations firm -- Ray Torresan & Associates -- to make sure that Canadians would start arguing amongst themselves about the Canadian engineering firm's report.

The rest of their fifth column is made up of a bunch of provincial government people who are also erstwhile Canadians and can argue with other Canadian politicians.

And now the fuse has been lighted and the whole thing can be expected soon to explode in purely Canadian controversy while the destruction of the valley is accomplished behind the smoke.

The destruction has already begun, by the way. I have been visiting the valley during the last few days and I can tell you that the surveyors are working in

there and the logging trucks are hauling away the first cut of trees -- just as it happened in Cypress Bowl.

The strategy of controversy is ancient and has worked well.

It works best when the people and their elected representatives get so caught up in a net full of red herrings that they can't see the real issue bearing down on them like a shark.

The objective of the Americans and their hired slide rules and typewriters in Vancouver is not to prove anything, but to keep the red herrings swimming.

There is nothing to be proved, and nothing of interest to Canada CAN be proved.

It's all very simple and we should work and think hard to keep it simple.

The Skagit is OUR river, and we don't have any more reason to flood it than we have to flood Stanley Park. We don't have to explain anything to the Seattle City Light. We don't have to tell them why we don't want it destroyed. We are not interested in THEIR power problem. We don't have to come up with any alternatives for them.

All we have to do is tell them not to touch our river -- that's all.

Ottawa Enters Fight to Halt High Ross Dam

Canadian Press

VANCOUVER — Fisheries Minister Jack Davis said yesterday Ottawa has accepted a challenge by Premier W. A. C. Bennett of British Columbia to stop the flooding of the Skagit Valley 80 miles east of Vancouver.

"My attitude is that it must be stopped," said Davis, who is to be appointed minister of environmental affairs in a cabinet reorganization. "The question is how."

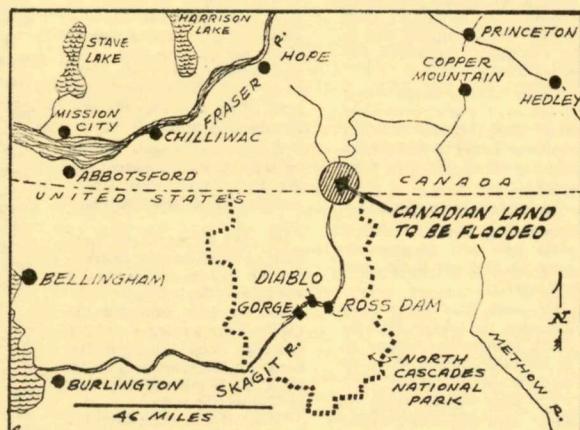
He said it is apparent that the plan by Seattle City Light to raise its Ross Lake Dam and pay flood damages to British Columbia is wrong from an economic point of view and it may be shown that it is also wrong from a conservation standpoint.

"Federal government lawyers are studying the deal and will report to the cabinet on how it might be stopped," said Davis.

"I can't say we are going to stop it, but I will certainly have to be convinced it should go ahead."

Asked what Canada's chances are of stopping the plan, which was ratified by both the provincial and federal governments before the International Joint Commission, which has jurisdiction over international waterways, was established, he said: "The inference is that we have the authority."

Davis said Seattle City Light must go before the U.S. Federal Power Commission and it is unlikely that body will rubberstamp its application while questions are being raised in Canada.



Vancouver Sun, October 3, 1970

Deer symbolize threat—



BULLDOZER AT WORK . . . clearing valley timber for proposed reservoir

By SCOTT HONEYMAN

We're standing at Ground Zero, watching three deer walk through the yard.

They're beautiful — and quite likely doomed.

Ground Zero is at the edge of Ross Lake in the beautiful Skagit Valley.

If Seattle City Light is permitted to add 125 feet to its High Ross Dam, Ground Zero

Angling jewel, P. 20

and the range the deer were using will be more than 100 feet underwater.

We watch the deer from the porch of a small log cabin the provincial fish and wildlife branch maintains, and where conservation officer Jack Delair has a tagging trap so he can follow the movements of the herd of 450.

Delair says he doesn't know if the herd will survive if the dam goes ahead, and the reservoir backs up eight miles into Canada. It will flood 6,000 acres.

But Delair, an ardent fisherman and hunter, makes it clear he'd just as soon not have to find out if the deer will survive.

He and Ross critic Dave Brousson, the Liberal MLA for North Vancouver-Capilano, sit in the cabin talking about the battle to save the Skagit.

"I think we're going to win," says Brousson. "I think Ottawa will force a hearing on it and the thing will get shot down."

Brousson stays optimistic as we poke around the valley, listening to the birds sing, following the meandering, fish-rich little river.

He's still optimistic when we drive into the old Witworth Ranch, a square mile of land Seattle City Light purchased in 1929 when the Witworth family went broke.

Then we hear the rattle of a chain saw and the snarl of bulldozers and skidders.

Seattle City Light has ordered the cottonwood and fir on its own property levelled, apparently in anticipation of getting the go-ahead for its dam project.

(One of the conditions under which it would be allowed to flood the Canadian land — aside from an annual fee of \$5.50 per flooded acre — is that Seattle City Light clear trees and debris from the land. (This will cost the utility about \$4 million.)

Walter MacDougall has the contract to log the cottonwood for Scott Paper, whose trucks are hauling to New Westminster.

He says Silver Creek Logging, of Hope, has the contract for the fir, which it has to get out by next September.

And he tells Brousson the giant Weyerhaeuser forest company is going to log off the banks of the mountains which flank the 20 miles of reservoir in Washington state.

"That is the most depressing news I have heard in a long time," says Brousson. "They must be pretty confi-

dent to go ahead with all this logging."

The provincial government earlier this year advertised 45 million cubic feet in timber sales for the proposed reservoir area, but postponed the sales after a furore in the legislature.

The sales are being held up until after the U.S. Federal Power Commission decides whether the dam project will be allowed to go ahead.

The city-owned power department makes its application later this month, and a hearing will likely be scheduled for next spring.

Appeals and legal arguments could take years — Brousson says up to four or five years.

Brousson and B.C. Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer, meantime, are pressuring the federal Liberal government to force International Joint Commission hearings on the project, aiming to stop it from going ahead.

"This is a unique recreation area," says Brousson. "It's within easy reach of the Lower Mainland, and one of only two in the region relatively unspoiled."

The Seattle city people say the new reservoir will provide a prime recreational area, but it's the kind we don't need.

"Let's leave it as it is, with all these beautiful natural camping areas and the great fishing and hunting. If they go ahead with the project, the spawning grounds for 90 per

cent of the stream's trout will be up to 100 feet underwater."

New Skagit

hurdle hinted

KAMLOOPS — Liberal MP Len Marchand said here Wednesday the federal government will probably amend the International Rivers Improvement Act so a new permit will be required to flood the Skagit Valley near Hope.

He said some of the present problems involving action by the federal government over the Skagit Valley stem from hazy language in the present act.

This language would be clarified in amendments and this would make a new permit necessary before the valley could be flooded, he said.

It would also enable a standing committee of the House of Commons to conduct public hearings.

Seattle City Light and Power Co., under an agreement with both the federal and provincial governments, wants to increase the height of the Ross Dam on the U.S. side of the border — a move which would flood part of the Skagit Valley in Canada.

to Skagit

Show us, Mr. Davis . . .

Vancouver Sun, October 21, 1970

A judicial inquiry into flooding of the Skagit Valley is welcome, although it falls short of the bold action expected of environmental minister-to-be Jack Davis. "My attitude is that it must be stopped," Mr. Davis is on record as saying. "The big question is how? . . . All we need now is the green light from our lawyers and we'll assume our responsibilities in this regard."

But now it appears as if Mr. Davis will sooner pass his responsibilities to a judge.

The case for preserving the valley has already been put most vocally. By whom? Only the lowly people to whom it belongs, as usual. Only the conservation nuts who put on demonstrations; only the kooks who give up their time to lobbying; only the extreme crackpots who are—what were the words of that Saturday columnist? — "screaming hysterically, their minds jammed shut and their mouths wide open."

They are the same people who scream about pollution, who screamed about Mt. Arrowsmith, about Boundary Bay, about Buttle Lake, Tweedsmuir Park, Williston Lake, strip mining, about every issue there's ever been in this province involving protection of the environment and concern for our heritage.

Mr. Davis knows, as does everyone else, that the B.C. government won't do

anything, won't admit it was dumb in 1967 to negotiate a deal with Seattle City Light. The P.C. government now refuses to enter the controversy because any negotiating is "up to Ottawa"; never mind that it could conduct negotiations in 1967.

Saturday columnists are entitled to the opinion that a small swampful of frogs isn't worth the effort. But others see the issue differently. The Edmonton Journal, for example, offers an opposite view from outside, assessing the value of saving versus selling in cold cash terms, equating the price B.C. negotiated with production of just four Christmas trees per acre per year. Even economically that sort of deal doesn't hold water, let alone the potential for a preserved valley which simply can't be priced.

Mr. Davis's "big question" is surely a rhetorical one. If Mr. Davis says it must be stopped, then he is the man to stop it, not just say it. If "we in Ottawa are taking our responsibilities seriously" then let's see it. A series of public hearings dragging on while the valley floor is systematically carved up by loggers may not accomplish anything except to render a verdict of "too late."

The new minister of environment has "a mandate for the protection of the biosphere" according to the throne speech. All right, Jack Davis, go ahead and show us.

Stanfield to tour Skagit by 'copter

Opposition leader Robert Stanfield arrives in Vancouver Thursday for a two-day exploration of the West Coast's rural and urban landscapes.

An earlier planned trip was cancelled so the Tory leader could remain in Ottawa during the FLQ emergency.

The visit begins Thursday morning when Stanfield takes a helicopter tour of the Skagit Valley, where 6,000-acres of Canadian recreation land are threatened by flooding to meet power needs in Washington state.

At noon Thursday, he addresses a joint meeting of the Men's Canadian and the Vancouver Kiwanis clubs on the subject, *The Challenge Before Us*.

Stanfield will attend a no-host reception in the ballroom of the Hotel Georgia on Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. The public is invited.

On Friday morning, he will meet with Mayor Tom Campbell to discuss rapid transit and other urban topics and later he will tour the Skeena Terrace Housing Project.

Vancouver Sun, October 26, 1970

A choice of weapons

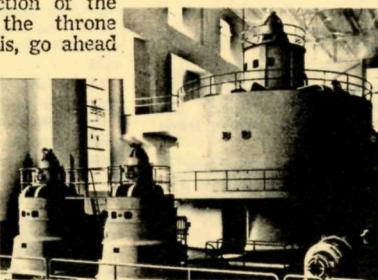
Both the save-the-Skagit cause and that of federal-provincial relations can do without the sort of help brought back from the Liberal policy conference by North Vancouver-Capilano MLA Dave Brousson. Yet it may be revealing that an old pro such as Premier W. A. C. Bennett not only took a piece of political gossip as gospel but had to resort to a most singular irrelevancy to try to even the score.

If Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau indeed was so indiscreet as to say that our "best way" to stop the flooding of the Skagit Valley is to "get rid" of Premier Bennett, it was surely a privileged indiscretion that should have stopped there. But this still doesn't explain why Mr. Bennett felt it necessary to retaliate by charging the prime minister with culpability for the Quebec crisis—a subject toward which Mr. Bennett had displayed uncommon statesmanship until Mr. Brousson started telling tales out of school.

Does the premier really think Mr. Trudeau's attitude on the Skagit—and regrettably it has been too non-committal to mean much to anyone—is an attempt "to take the attention of the Canadian people and the people of British Columbia from the terrible mess" he has made in Quebec?

For a man who heretofore appeared to have a covert admiration for the Trudeau style, his very attempt to link what is by any yardstick a minor act of provincial foolishness with a civil disorder of the most major national gravity is simply too petty for words.

Mr. Bennett has allowed a pin-prick to spoil a pretty good record—school teacher witch-hunt, aside—of mature counselling on the troubles in Quebec. For him to go so far into left field to defend his government's policy on the Skagit could mean that he has no acceptable answer to the question itself, and knows that the answer allegedly suggested by Prime Minister Trudeau just might catch on as a jolly good idea.



Sharp eyes Skagit peril

OTTAWA (CP) — External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp said Thursday the government is giving "the most urgent consideration" to a proposal for flooding part of the Skagit River Valley in British Columbia.

Ran Harding (NDP-Kootenay West) told the House last month that Seattle City Power and Light had applied for a permit to raise the Ross Dam on the Skagit and flood about 6,000 acres of the valley.

Mr. Harding asked Thursday whether the government will re-negotiate terms of a licence granted to Seattle in 1942 by the International Joint Commission, with a view to preventing the flooding.

Calgary Albertan, November 20, 1970

Vancouver Sun, December 1, 1970

Judicial inquiry on Skagit

Judge will be named soon, says Davis

Vancouver Sun, October 17, 1970

WEST VANCOUVER—A federal judicial hearing will be held on the Skagit Valley flooding controversy.

Fisheries and Forests Minister Jack Davis Friday told a public meeting of the Society for Pollution and Environmental Control that further announcements setting the date of the inquiry and naming the judge to head it would come soon from Ottawa.

The inquiry would receive submissions from SPEC, the Fisheries Department and other interested parties, Davis told The Sun.

"It will be interesting to know if the province of B.C. will appear," he said. "If they don't it will be a bit of a one-sided affair."

"I can't say what the judge will find, of course, but I think he'll be impressed," said Davis, who has been named new federal minister for environmental affairs.

MORE HEARINGS

He did not elaborate.

Davis also said companies applying for oil-drilling permits in Georgia Strait "haven't a hope."

The idea of a marine national park in the strait had become so popular, even among cabinet ministers, he said, that "no one would think of applying for drilling permission."

He said that if Georgia Strait were named a national park it would not look very different "viewed purely from the surface."

"The main effort will be directed to preservation of the bottom," he said.

In reply to a request from Vancouver harbormaster Captain Roy Holland for regular aircraft patrol over Georgia Strait to observe marine oil slicks Davis said that he envisaged a combination of Air Sea Rescue, air defence and fisheries patrol forces.

He also predicted continual monitoring of pollution by satellites in orbit.

"It seems they can pick out individual houses and cars, so there's no reason why they shouldn't see oil slicks," he said.

In his speech to more than 300 people at West Vancouver Community Centre Davis called shaping Canada's environment the biggest challenge of the 70's.

"It's a bigger challenge than unemployment. It's a bigger challenge than inflation. It's a bigger issue than pensions or skyjacking or the FLQ. To many Canadians it's a bigger challenge than all of our social and financial problems put together," he said.

Davis, who said he will be forming his environmental affairs department over the next few weeks, made a clear statement of his policy towards industry.

Industry must recycle, he said, and be more respectful of its surroundings.

"Industry's hard-nosed scientific approach has served us well in the past. But it has never been able to solve all our problems. It has had to bend to economic imperatives.

"Now it will have to bend, increasingly, to environmental considerations," he said.

"If we break the chain of living things, entire structures come tumbling down," he said. "Wipe out a single species and you undermine an entire life pyramid."

He rejected people who want to set the clock back.

"They are afraid of modern science. Progress, in the materialistic sense of the word, is suspect. Apprehension, and occasionally fear, has taken its place in the hearts of many Canadians.

"I believe that man can better his lot, improve his standard of living and still make the most of his environment," he said.

He advocated a complete set of national standards for water, air and soil, which would cause economy and ecology to "go hand in hand."

He outlined a program of action before the setting up of the environmental affairs department that included forming guidelines by consulting key advisers across the country and meeting provincial ministers concerned with pollution.

I N

ON SKAGIT

Greene calls for hearing



OTTAWA (CP) — Energy Minister J. J. Greene told the Commons on Tuesday that a public hearing should be held on a proposal to flood the Skagit River Valley in British Columbia.

He was replying to Ran Harding (NDP-Kootenay West) who asked what type of investigation the federal government would undertake before making a decision on the valley flooding.

The New Democrat MP had earlier asked whether Seattle City Light had applied for a permit to raise the height of the Ross Dam and flood an estimated 6,000 acres in the valley.

Greene said Seattle Light is operating under a permit granted by the International Joint Commission in 1942.

"To the best of my knowledge no current permit has been applied for. It is my understanding that Seattle Power is operating under the apprehension that no new permit is required."

Harding said External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp has made clear that Seattle City Light would have to get a permit.

Vancouver Sun, October 7, 1970

Ross Dam project to be reviewed

City Light's plan to raise the height of Ross Dam is subject to the review and approval of the Department of Ecology, John Biggs, director, said in Vancouver, B.C., yesterday.

Biggs told a meeting of the American Society of Range Management his department would conduct a public hearing or hearings on the controversial hydroelectric project, the Associated Press reported.

Seattle's Skagit River project has aroused opposition from some Canadians who object to the flooding of a length of the Skagit Valley in British Columbia and are concerned about the loss of wildlife and fish-spawning

grounds. Many Americans also oppose the project.

Biggs said comments from British Columbia and Canada would be accepted at the department hearings.

City Light wants to increase the height of Ross Dam by 12½ feet, which would lift the level of Ross Lake from about 1,600 to 1,725 feet above sea level. The lake would flood several miles back into British Columbia.

The Department of Ecology today said the state approved the city's plans for the full Ross project in permits issued in 1921 and in 1926. The city has requested extensions of its permit, as permitted by law.

The present permit expires January 1 and the project would be subject to departmental review then, when City Light asks for an extension. The permit covers structural safety of the dam and the volume of water to be impounded.

Department officials also will have a second opportunity to review the project sometimes after the city files its application for the project with the Federal Power Commission. The commission traditionally asks states for comment on license requests.

Public hearings probably could be called at that time to aid the state decision-making process.

City Light has said raising Ross Dam would permit the generation of an additional 241,000 kilowatts of electricity. That power would be available as 37,000 kilowatts of firm energy — that which could be generated all of the time — and 204,000 kilowatts of peaking power, that available during the high-consumption periods of the day.

I N.

U. S.

Raising of Ross Dam is concern to Canadian embassy

The Canadian embassy in Washington has told the State Department it is concerned by the possible environmental impact of raising the height of Ross Dam in City Light's Skagit River hydroelectric system, the Associated Press reported yesterday.

City Light filed an application for a license for the

project with the Federal Power Commission Thursday.

The raising of Ross Dam by 12½ feet would flood Ross Lake several miles farther into British Columbia, an action opposed by many residents of the province.

The Associated Press said a State Department spokesman said the department

would follow the license hearing procedures to watch for environmental affects of the project.

Federal Power Commission hearings probably will not be scheduled for several months.

The State Department also said the Ross project would be considered under provis-

ions of the new Environmental Policy Act, which requires a review and statement of the environmental consequences of projects involving the government.

The City Light project would cost about \$46 million and would generate 272,000 kilowatts of peaking energy for Seattle.

AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT

NEWS FLASH

January 6, 1971

Canadian Broadcasting Company

The Canadian National Minister of the Environment, Mr. Jack Davis, will go to Washington, D.C. in mid January to discuss the Ross Dam issue with United States officials.

Barrett goes to Nixon

NDP leader Dave Barrett has taken the Skagit Valley flooding issue to President Nixon and Prime Minister Trudeau.

In a letter mailed Tuesday, Barrett asked Nixon to intervene directly to prevent further flooding of the valley by Seattle City Power and Light Company, through increasing the height of its Ross dam.

In another letter to Trudeau, Barrett suggests that the federal government could offer to set aside the valley as an international park.

"This would be one of the first of what I would hope would be many throughout the world," Barrett said in Victoria.

"This would also give the Canadian government a way to save the valley without having to renegotiate the

international agreement that allows it to be flooded."

Asked whether the miles of mud flats during low water in the present Skagit reservoir wouldn't detract from its desirability as a park, Barrett suggested that the area could be used as an experiment in rehabilitating situations of this kind.

He said the question of compensating the City of Seattle for the money it has spent in expectation of raising the level of its dam "would have to be negotiated to everybody's satisfaction."

Provincial government officials have estimated that Seattle could demand compensation of up to \$8 million.

Barrett's request to Nixon came after Seattle city council Monday voted in favor of proceeding with the extension of its utility's Skagit reservoir, created by the Ross Dam on the Washington side of the border.

Meanwhile, the ROSS (Run Off Skagit Spoilers) committee has decided it can do little more this year to fight the raising of the Ross Dam.

Liberal MLA David Brouson, a member of the committee, said in North Vancouver Tuesday the committee believes it will be difficult to make contact with government officials in search of further action until the holiday season is over.

However, the committee will make a presentation to the U.S. Federal Power Commission when that body holds hearings on Seattle City Light's application to raise the dam. Brouson said he expects the FPC to meet by April or May on the question.

In Washington State, officials of the department of ecology are studying the implications of the Seattle council vote.

Director John Biggs was not available for comment Tuesday.

City Light denies any dam-permit 'refusal'

City Light today denied it has "refused" a Canadian government request to apply for a license to flood a section of the Skagit Valley in British Columbia by raising the height of Ross Dam.

The Associated Press reported from Vancouver, B.C., yesterday that a deputy in Canada's federal energy department "announced the refusal . . ."

John Nelson, superintendent of City Light, said a Canadian official has said Seattle should apply for a Canadian license permitting flooding of about 6,000 acres of the Skagit Valley north of the boundary.

Nelson said City Light has been told by the corporation counsel's office and by associated legal advisers in Canada that the Canadian reservation licensing law probably does not apply to City Light.

The Skagit project was ap-

proved by the International Joint Commission many years ago, when Seattle first began planning its Skagit River hydroelectric program. The Canadian law requiring licensing of work on international waters was adopted in the mid-1950s. Nelson said, and legal advisers believe it can not affect City Light's plans.

Some Canadians have been hoping the federal licensing procedure would give them an opportunity to block Seattle's plans to add 12½ feet to Ross Dam.

A Vancouver, B.C., firm of consulting engineers, F.F. Slaney & Co., said it has been retained by City Light to prepare an information report on the Skagit project for distribution to Canadians.

Shrum challenged

Vancouver Sun, October 28, 1970

Skagit Valley conservationists have challenged B.C. Hydro chairman Dr. Gordon Shrum to produce facts to back up his charges that they are ignorant.

John Massey, chairman of the Run Out the Skagit Spoilers Committee made the challenge Tuesday in an open letter to Shrum.

At an environmental management conference Monday Shrum labelled the outcry over the planned flooding of the valley to provide a source of power for Seattle Light Co. as "emotional and hysterical."

"Never has so much been spoken and written by so many who have so little knowledge of the facts," he said.

McGeer sees way out of Skagit for B.C. gov't

Province, November 26, 1970

In his letter, Massey thanked Shrum for his effort "no matter how unwitting," to keep the matter before the public.

"Our knowledge of the facts is that the Skagit Valley is to be flooded to the extent of some 6,000 acres and that some eight or nine miles of what we conceive to be a uniquely valuable river bottom is to be lost to the people of Canada for all time," the letter said.

"The recompense for this loss equates to about \$5.50 per acre per year on a 99-year lease to the people of Canada . . .

"If you are in possession of other facts on which you base your charge of 'our ignorance,' would you please make them public."

Washington state's ecology director has given the B.C. government a graceful way out of its agreement to permit further flooding of the Skagit Valley, says Liberal leader McGeer.

McGeer said Wednesday he had sent a telegram to Premier Bennett urging him to make the director's position on the Skagit a means of halting the new flooding. The director, John Biggs, said in B.C. Monday the flooding cannot proceed until it gets a go-ahead from his department.

McGeer issued a statement Wednesday saying Biggs' statement that he would hold hearings on the flooding justifies presentation of a B.C. government brief to the hearings seeking a reconsideration of its agreement to permit the flooding.

The announcement of the hearings has made the Skagit Valley question a "whole new ball game."

"A simple admission of error in judgment and a request for reconsideration in the best interests of everyone concerned would appear almost certain of favorable consideration by the state of Washington," said McGeer.

Impeach Bennett, says McGeer

Skagit Valley flooding 'a monstrous sellout'

B.C. Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer says Premier W. A. C. Bennett should be impeached for a monstrous sellout to the United States in the Skagit Valley dam-and-flood proposal.

"I'm sick and tired of sellouts of Canada by Canadians," said McGeer Friday.

"If we had a method of impeaching Bennett, he should be impeached."

Under a 1967 agreement between the B.C. government and Seattle City Light 6,000 acres of the Skagit Valley near Hope will be flooded by heightening the Ross Dam in Washington State.

The new reservoir will back up almost 10 miles into B.C. and provide the city of Seattle with additional electric power.

In return for the flooding, B.C. will receive about \$5.50 per acre annually from Seattle Light.

Data on Skagit 'insufficient'

Too little is known about the effects of proposed flooding of B.C.'s Skagit Valley to reach any conclusion about whether or not it should be done, says Vancouver's director of public recreation.

Marshal Smith made the comment as one of four directors of Integrated Recreation Consultants Ltd., a firm retained by Seattle City Light Co. to develop proposals for use of a lake that would be formed by damming the Skagit River.

Under the deal, B.C. will receive \$5.50 per acre for the flooding of 6,000 acres caused by the heightening of the Ross Lake dam to meet increased Seattle demands for power, which company officials say could be generated in the U.S. anyway.

The IRC proposals were part of a report from the Vancouver firm of F. F. Slaney and Co. hired by Seattle to examine the effects of the flooding. Slaney is also a director of IRC.

Smith said IRC is "only interested in getting the facts to both sides."

"We don't know enough about the flooding proposal yet. I'd have to get more facts before I could say whether I was in favor of it."

"I doubt if one per cent of the people in B.C. have ever seen the valley as it is now. You have to be practical, although that doesn't mean I think we should go in and flood the valley."

"On the other hand, you go out to Cultus Lake and you can't buy space to put a boat. There's a tremendous demand for boating facilities and a lake in the Skagit Valley may to one way to provide it."

"We're only interested in what's best for B.C."

IRC was retained, according to the Slaney report, "to assess the recreational potential of the Skagit Valley in B.C. and to develop a preliminary concept for recreational development, as an assistance in planning recreational facilities."

Smith said he has not been closely connected with the Skagit Valley situation.

"I attend one meeting per month," he said. "I'm not involved until the politicians make up their minds."

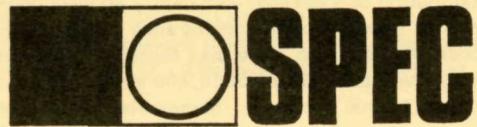
"It's a political decision, and the information should be made available to all sides. Everyone in this firm is a conservationist. But we can't make up our minds without facts."

Vancouver Sun, September 26, 1970

Vancouver Sun, September 29, 1970

His Worship Mayor Wes Uhlman
 City of Seattle
 City Hall
 SEATTLE, U. S. A.

October 6, 1970



Dear Sir:

The Society for Pollution and Environmental Control (SPEC) is an environmental organization, having some 8,300 members in the Province of B. C. Many of our members are opposed to the flooding of the Skagit Valley proposed by your utility, City Light.

We have noticed that in the various representations made thus far, the question of the value of Skagit as a recreational resource has been lightly touched on. Believing that this is an essential matter we have embarked on a study with the aim of defining that value. We enclose the interim report of our project team.

We request that you peruse the interim report and note the extraordinary discrepancy between the income value of the asset concerned and the rental set by the 1967 agreement between the City of Seattle and the Government of B. C.

We further request that you peruse the subsequent points offered having regard to legal morality and the economic reason of the position.

Perhaps you might favour us by having an economist in your administration consider the argument set out in the report.

For your information we wish to advise that we shall be pursuing the points raised in the interim report. A final report on the matter will be prepared after further studies, and we shall be pleased to forward the same in due course.

Mr. Gerard Culhane
 Chairman, Legal Committee
 SPEC

Yours truly

THE SOCIETY FOR POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

44 West 6th Ave., Vancouver 10, B. C. (876-4131)

SPEC INTERIM REPORT

FLOODING THE SKAGIT VALLEY

G. F. Culhane and Edward Chessor

Recent controversy concerning the projected flooding of the Skagit Valley by City Light has largely turned on Federal/Provincial relations in Canada or on alternative power sources open to the Seattle Public Utility. Little attention has been paid to the economic worth of the resource as a recreational asset. This report offers an analysis of that worth and draws certain conclusions from the evaluation.

Present value of the Skagit as Recreation:

The present value of the Skagit area in terms of income can be calculated from the amount that people will pay or spend on transportation to utilize it, that is, to make the return trip from Vancouver, the nearest and only large urban area within a three hour drive. For the purposes of a minimum estimate we accept the figure of present use given in the Slaney report, 10,000 visits per year. We further assume all these visits are from Vancouver. Some will be from closer locations, but these will cancel against those from further locations such as the Interior and the United States. As the Skagit is a renowned fishing area, it is reasonable to make this assumption. Average cost of a trip is taken at \$12.00. This figure is reached by considering the likely cost of a scheduled bus run (if one existed) of 120 miles at 5¢ per mile; and a car rental cost of a total of \$44 to \$48, on the further

assumption of 4 persons per car. Strictly considered, costs should include any other amounts persons spend in pursuance of such a trip, such as food, lodging, expenditure on camping or fishing goods, and so forth. We may therefore safely assume that the figure of \$12.00 is a bare minimum. Using the Slaney figure of 10,000 visits per year, therefore, the present value of the resource is at least \$120,000 per year. Slaney claims the population of the Lower Mainland will increase 75% over the next 15 years and that demand for recreation will grow at double the annual rate of population increase. Accepting these figures, it can be seen that on minimal assumptions, and with no change whatever in the state of the resource, its value as income will increase to over \$240,000 in 10 years.

The present fishery cannot absorb visits to such an extent however, and access presently is limited by the old logging road, the Silver Skagit Public Road. Since some 6000 acres are available in the Valley, there is ample space for development of an array of recreational uses. What is the present value of the Skagit area on the assumption of the development of facilities such as a good road, campsites, and picnic tables?

It will be a familiar fact to Lower Mainland residents that campsites are fully utilized during the summer and full-up signs are all too frequent. The Slaney Report claims that facilities for camping in local provincial parks are inadequate for current demands. The Report also states that 90% of all outdoor recreation takes place within 3 hours' travel time of the participant's home (P. 14), a condition which the Skagit Valley meets. In the following analysis of expected benefits from some development, we therefore assume full utilization.

Returns to Income from Development:

The assumptions in this section are that the road for a total distance of 30 miles is improved to the standard of Forestry Access, first class road; provision of one 300 unit campsite; provision of 350 picnic tables. These facilities would be developed in an area of 600 acres, leaving the balance of over 5500 acres for continued use of the Skagit in its present wilderness recreational use.

Cost detail on the above would be as follows: The road would be 3" asphalt cap with 3" gravel beneath, wide enough for two vehicles to pass, and of suitable durability for use by passenger and camper type vehicles. Estimated cost range would be 1.08 to 1.5 million dollars at 10% money cost (interest), with provision for payments to sinking fund and repayment schedule of \$152,400 per year. This road cost includes provision for re-surfacing at 10 year intervals; base (gravel) renewal at 20 year periods; road renewal at 40 year periods; and, of course, normal annual maintenance. Use is assumed at 200,000 trips per year. The estimate range is necessary because we have not yet obtained a firm opinion of the actual terrain of the Skagit road, which will be provided in our final report. For this interim report, we will assume the higher cost figure, of 1.5 million. At this figure, re-surfacing is \$61,300, base renewal is \$35,000, road renewal is \$84,000 and normal annual maintenance is \$800 per mile.

Cost of the camping facility, parking area, and picnic tables over the 600 acre site would range from \$56 to \$71 thousand. The higher figure will be used for this report.

We have taken a road length of 30 miles on the assumption that it would be best to locate the camping and picnic area at the north end of the park area so that the balance would retain its wilderness aspect to the benefit of fishermen and hikers.

We have stated that the facility would be fully utilized in the summer, taken at a season of 70 days. The further minimizing assumptions are made that the average size camping party of four persons would stay three nights, projected as follows:

70 days utilization of 3 days per party.....	23 parties per site
23 parties of 4 persons per party.....	92 persons per site
92 persons per site on 300 sites.....	27,600 visits per year

The value of each visit of \$12.00 yields a total income value of \$331,200 per year. This total will be realized without provision of any fee on entry to park.

There is also provision for 350 picnic tables, sufficient for 350 families, at any one time. We assume utilization of an average of 300 of these on Saturdays and Sundays from June 20th to September 1st. This will provide twenty days utilization at 4 persons per family. The value of this is derived as follows:

300 families per day for 20 days.....	6000 families
6000 families at 4 persons per family.....	24,000 visits per year

The per visit value of \$12.00 yields a picnic visits total value of \$288,000 per year.

We therefore conclude that on the basis of a number of assumptions we believe to be minimal, with a modest investment for improvements which can be completed in one year, the present value of the Skagit as a recreational resource as income would be:

present use	-	\$120,000
campsites	-	\$331,200
picnic	-	\$288,000
Total		\$739,200

We have not considered any entrance fee. The demand for recreation is inelastic and the supply is fixed in the case of the Skagit. We say that demand is inelastic because that is a well known fact regarding such recreation resources. People who intend to go to the Skagit are not likely to change their minds if they must pay a fee of \$1.00 per person to use the park. Their cost is \$12.00 from Vancouver in any event, and the small increase in price will not significantly alter the behaviour of any great number of potential visitors, at least, not those who are campers. Moreover, the supply of the Skagit is fixed, that is, there are no other close substitutes for the Skagit Valley. On this point all persons and organizations who have commented on the matter seem to agree. One conclusion that can be drawn from this fact is that people who wish to go, or go again, to the Skagit to camp, hike, or fish, will be even less likely to be deterred by a small increase in price than inelastic demand would suggest in any event. If a fee of \$1.00 per person per night were imposed on campers along, the income value would be \$27,600 per year - enough to pay road maintenance by itself. If some more modest fee were imposed on other users such as hikers and fishermen, park maintenance also would be provided for.

We therefore conclude there is an immediately realizable minimal income value from the Skagit as a recreational resource of some \$739,200 per year. With deduction of capital recovery figure for development costs, set out earlier as \$152,400, there is a net annual value generation of \$586,800 per year.

We consider that by alienating this resource for use as an undeveloped reservoir by City Light, the government will entirely eliminate this valuable asset. It is true some claims are made, supported more by imagination than by fact, in the Slaney Report for subsequent possible recreational use. But all that is problematic and ridden with uncertainties. The Skagit, as it is now, is an absolute fact which cannot be doubted. It is a proven recreational asset as presently developed by nature and can easily absorb our modest improvement. An undeveloped reservoir having a severe annual drawdown, does not faintly resemble a lake, and the upper end of the present reservoir which intrudes its unlovely and useless exposed end into British Columbia is the best evidence of this indisputable fact. The very modest development we propose will leave 90% of the space in the Valley as it is, and, since the campsites and tables will be in one concentrated area of 600 acres, the use of this lovely valley will be extended to the convenience of most of our people without destroying other uses present or contemplated.

We have said that the government proposes to alienate the Valley and we submit the word is correct. City Light is to pay a rental of \$34,566 in consideration of this asset whose income value could be, as we have set out, at least a net of \$586,800 per year. But this is not like the rental of a house which ends with the asset in its former state. The Valley, once flooded, is gone forever. Given

the projections of recreational value set out earlier in this report, it is quite plain that the government has made a bargain of incredible folly. It is almost as if a child had bargained away a ruby in trade for the prize ring in a Cracker-Jack Box. With a very modest investment, the Skagit is worth almost 20 times the price it has been sold for. When one recalls the minimal character of our assumption, it becomes difficult to describe the foolishness of the deal. Again, the ratio of 1:20 is based on the possible INCOME value of the Skagit. If one is to sell an apartment house, one does not sell at the total of rents, or even of rents assuming full occupancy. If an economist were to start with the net income figure of \$586,800 and attempt to capitalize that, bearing in mind the demand projections based on inelastic demand and fixed supply, the resulting upset price for a fair market sale would be expressed in many millions of dollars.

The only sums to be realized by the Province in the deal that was signed in 1967 between Mr. Williston, Minister of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, and the City of Seattle, are rental payments at \$34,566.21 annually based on the rates in the Water Act for storage of water for power. Apart from this there is a once only windfall to the Province from the sale of timber to be cleared in the Valley. The Forest Service estimates the value of this material at \$5 million, from which the Province can be expected to realize approximately \$500,000 in stumpage and royalty. This is less than one year's net income value for the developed Skagit Park.

Further, on the assumptions and development provided for in this report, the minimum loss to the Province from the Skagit deal is:

\$586,800		
- 34,566		
Total: <u>\$552,234</u>		for all years after 1972.

Bearing in mind the projections of demand for recreation it will be seen that our net loss figure is, in fact, far too low to be representative by the year 1975.

As if the foregoing were not quite bad enough, City Light is not going to use this valuable asset to realize anything like its potential; rather, it is just going to flood it, and use it for storage of water. It is as though the government sold a brand new first class highrise for a few pennies and the new owner promptly demolished it and put in a parking lot.

The misallocation of resources in the great Skagit Deal staggers the imagination, but Seattle says they do not need our Federal Permit, Mr. Bennett folds his arms and talks solemnly of never welsching on a deal once made, and the federal government has been publicly scratching its head for a number of months. The "mad hatter's tea party", one might say, in modern dress - right here in Beautiful British Columbia!

SPEC believes that not all is yet lost, though it is very late. The very foolishness of the Skagit Deal offers some clue to a defence against its completion. Let it be assumed that the Government of B.C. has indeed signed a binding contract with the City of Seattle. Let it be further assumed that the Government has, in the deal, bargained away valuable rights (the Skagit Valley) for a fraction of their true worth in a known and already well established use. Finally, assume that the Government as a whole (in its administrative agencies and so forth) HAD THE KNOWLEDGE of the true value but failed to take that into account in concluding the Deal. Would not any reasonably prudent man, on hearing these assumed facts, conclude that the Government was out of its wits at the time of entering the contract? He would. Indeed he would.

Does the law make any provision for the case of some witless person such as an infant, a drunkard, or a person of unsound mind who signs away valuable rights for a song? Indeed it does. There is a legal doctrine called UNJUST ENRICHMENT which is used in just such a case. It is a doctrine or rule that the courts may use to upset binding legal contracts where facts such as those recited are proved to exist. A famous American legal thinker once explained how the harsh law of contract is limited in civilized legal systems⁽¹⁾ Thus, by the accepted standards of American jurisprudence, liability beyond the law of contract applies to the general body of

American law. That the doctrine of Unjust Enrichment applies in the law of Canada cannot be doubted. Indeed, the standard text on the subject observes: "Most mature systems of law have found it necessary to provide, outside the fields of contract and civil wrongs, for the restoration of benefits on grounds of unjust enrichment." (2)

SPEC therefore submits that this is a case in which the Government of B.C. has made, literally, a witless bargain. Since the law of contract applies in international law, so also should the principle of restitution in the case of Unjust Enrichment. The doctrine has clear application in the case of the Skagit Deal. Thus the City of Seattle is bound by what may be described as the morality of law and may not proceed with the clearing and flooding of the Skagit Valley. To do so would be to carry out an unconscionable bargain. A sharp bargain is one thing, but we are sure that Seattle will want no part in what is, strictly considered, another Brooklyn Bridge transaction.

Further, the Deal is pointless, for Seattle, in any event. In the Slaney Report, (page 21), certain economic points are offered. It is stated that the closest substitute power source would be Bonneville at the annual cost of approximately \$3 million, while high Ross dam power will cost the city utility approximately \$2 million per year. Elsewhere it is noted that after only two years, the utility will have to add substantially to its power sources, in any event. Thus Seattle is in the position of taking a recreational asset having an economic worth of approximately \$550,000 (net) per year and destroying that income generating capacity in order to save \$1 million a year for two years. Further, this is in the face of a demand curve for recreation that indicates the income generation of the present recreational use of the Skagit will rise steeply with time. It is hard to believe the business men who run the city administration and the utility will be ready to accept such a ludicrous misallocation of resources.

The whole argument cuts both ways. There has been a great change in valuation of various benefits in the community in the last decade, as a result of rising expectation, increased disposable incomes, leisure time and, in the case of fixed supply of recreation resources, population growth. Doubtless, many a binding pact will now be discovered to be sadly out of harmony with allocation of resources in current evaluations. Where B.C. has an issue today, perhaps Washington will have one tomorrow. Certainly it is true that if the government of this Province now seems to have concluded a foolish bargain, Seattle will seem even more foolish in a short time if it goes ahead on the dam project. In less than two years the environmental movement has toppled many a rusty icon of conventional wisdom. What will the intellectual scenery look like in one year's time?

By the ordinary standards of price theory the Skagit Deal is a bad bargain for Seattle and for B.C. Logging should stop forthwith. The whole deal should be shelved. Any sums paid by either party to the other should be repaid. Seattle has a claim for any sums laid out for engineering studies and the like but not for advertising expenditures such as the reported \$15,000 for the Slaney Report. Neither party should be liable for the historical change in circumstances and community valuation that has made the original scheme for the dam now irrelevant and unacceptable.

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WILL CANADA LET THE YANKS FLOOD THIS B.C. FOREST?

By Paul Gresco

The British Columbia government is trying to sell the U.S. the right to flood a rich green B.C. valley to provide power for the city of Seattle. Ottawa can stop this sellout. But if it doesn't, the forest glade at right could look like the ugly sea of stumps below.

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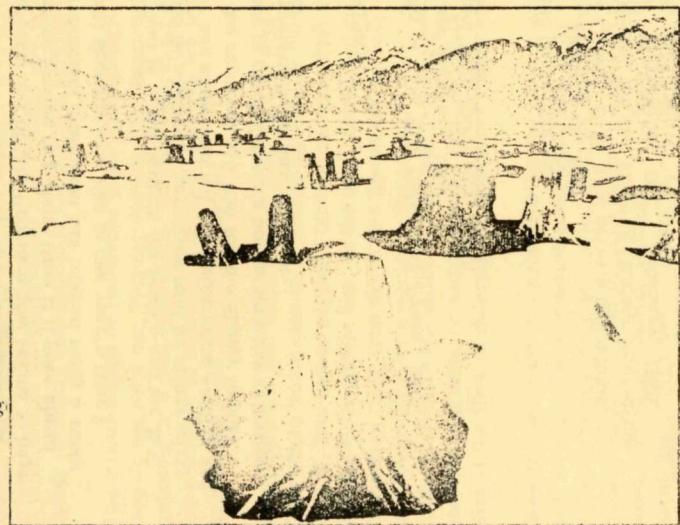
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