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The Hoover Reports—II

Save the \$\$\$

By VIC REINEMER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

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WHEN the bipartisan Hoover Commission peered into the Interior Department four years ago it immediately fell into hot water. That water had been heated to boiling point by friction between the Corps of Army Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and about a dozen federal agencies, bureaus, services and commissions which have been splashing the nation's rivers, each other and your money for many years.

This big water fight is not cooling down. Various agencies, each overlapping, simultaneously surveys, issue widely-varied reports, bicker for authority and compete with each other for water development jobs. Meanwhile, John Q. Public has a water bill of over \$52 billion on the books. That figure is the Commission's estimate of water-resources-development projects now under construction or in the planning stage.

To get to the reason for this battle of the bureaucrats it is necessary to dip into a bit of history at West Point which occurred long before that institution became famous for football teams and code of honor violations. In 1802 West Point became this country's first engineering school, and for many years a good engineer was almost necessary, an Army engineer. The elite Corps of Engineers ran the Academy for many years and, because of its technical excellence was given the job of improving U. S. geography by supervising flood control and rivers and harbor improvements.

Then in 1902 the Bureau of Reclamation was established to implement irrigation and reclamation projects. Through the years the Department of Agriculture, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Power Commission, the Public Health Service and other federal organizations—including even the Department of State—became concerned with some aspects of the water development program.

After the establishment of many of these groups the idea of "multiple-purpose" development of the rivers—the use of the water in as many ways possible—gained strength. During the 1920's.

Many conflicting policies won battle. Each interested agency concerned itself with its single, or perhaps double purpose. Co-ordinated multiple-purpose development and the project was not accomplished by the project.

As a result, confusion and waste abound. As the Hoover Commission reported: "Experience has shown that jangling out responsibilities among these functional agencies produces endless confusion and conflict. . . . Division of responsibility means duplication of surveys and investigations, wasteful expenditure of funds result."

For example, both the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers surveyed the same project at Hell's Canyon, Idaho. Each survey cost about a quarter million dollars. They differed in essential particulars of construction and by \$75 million in cost of execution. Result of the project was postponed.

In California both groups have made simultaneous studies of the same streams in a dozen instances. A frequent result of this duplication is that the differences are not resolved and the project is not accomplished by the project.

In their haste to beat each other to a job, these two great competing agencies often dive into a project with insufficient hydrologic data—facts on water volume, etc. The Hoover Commission reported that "so serious are these deficiencies that it is estimated on the basis of experience that the limit of error or ignorance in present water development is more than 25 per cent, and is frequently greater than that."

For example, the Kendrick project in Wyoming, a \$24 million enterprise, was built in 1934—but no surplus was available for it until twelve years later. According to Leslie A. Miller, chairman of the National Resources Committee of the Hoover Commission, the Federal Government lost at least \$9 million through just this type of faulty estimating, and farmers of course have lost many millions more.

Two Government Agencies Bickering Against Each Other To Get Jobs

In order to get projects approved—and away from their competitors—both agencies often underestimate the cost of projects. Then, as soon as the money is approved they "re-survey"—and come back to Congress for a supplementary appropriation. The Corps of Engineers project was originally estimated to cost \$63 million. The actual cost was \$93.5 million. Sixteen projects of the Reclamation Bureau were underestimated by the huge total of \$44 million.

One reason why the two groups are at odds is the fact that they operate under different philosophies. Reclamation law prohibits speculation on a government project. The Corps of Engineers, on the other hand, is not so strict. If you can get the Corps to spin a swampland for you, at government expense, you can sell the land at any price you can get.

Reclamation law specifies that publicly-generated power shall be sold at the lowest practical price with preference given to public utilities. The Corps favors sale of power at the source, where usually only private utilities purchase it. Reclamation law provides for the repayment by water-users of a large part of the investment. The Corps is relatively unopposed with repayment, and water which they improve are popular because of the usual lack of tolls charged to those who profit from the improvement.

The two protagonists have been almost continually at loggerheads. But when in 1944, a Missouri Valley Authority was proposed as a single agency to develop that valley as one watershed, they quickly got their heads together. The Corps policy had been "conservation," on their plan for the Missouri. This compromise was agreed in view of the fact that the Corps had been "conserving" the Missouri. The Corps policy was "conservation," on their plan for the Missouri. This compromise was agreed in view of the fact that the Corps had been "conserving" the Missouri.

How did this "shotgun wedding" work out? The Hoover Commission reported that the "compromise consisted of a division of projects between the two agencies to solve any important problem of the Missouri. The result is in no sense an integrated development plan for the Basin, and the result is in no sense an integrated development plan for the Basin, and the result is in no sense an integrated development plan for the Basin.

An "interagency" committee was formed with the avowed purpose of coordinating the conflicting opinions among these two and four smaller Federal departments. But, the Hoover Commission reported "the committee has failed to solve any important problem of the Missouri. The result is in no sense an integrated development plan for the Basin, and the result is in no sense an integrated development plan for the Basin.

Engineers Ignore Army Commander; Take Their Proposals To Congress

Several actions by the Corps of Engineers are especially interesting. Normally one would expect an Army officer to be responsible in his command for the construction of the project. During the period 1941-48 over 400 construction plans were forwarded by the Corps to the Executive Office of the President for review and integration by the National Resources Planning Board.

NEW ARMOR



Lightweight plastic armor makes this soldier look more like a baseball catcher than a fighting man. The new armor will soon be issued to troops on Korea. Easy adjustment and quick release straps feature the lightweight clothing. The plastic helmet is considered superior to the present steel headgear. (Acme Telephone)

Douglas Seeks Arms Fund Cut

By EDWIN B. HAKKINSON
WASHINGTON (AP)—Senator Douglas (D-Ill.) today offered a series of amendments to cut from \$600,000,000 and \$1,000,000,000 the bill of the multi-billion dollar defense bill.

The rangy, gray-haired lawmaker started the Senate late yesterday by a shocked cry during bitter debate on the bill.

His amendments today aimed at saving millions of dollars earmarked for extra flying pay for expediting aircraft construction contracts and numerous other large items.

Senators Byrd (D-Va.) and Ferguson (R-Mich.) also teamed up to offer two restrictions to the bill providing \$6,100,000,000 to operate the expanding armament services.

They asked that part-time workers and consultants be included within a manpower ceiling of 530,000 for civilian "white collar" workers in defense agencies. The ceiling approved by the Senate appropriations committee applied only to full-time workers.

A second Byrd-Ferguson amendment would prevent the Defense Department from paying for tuition or schooling of stenographers, typists and other lower-paid Government workers.

During war debate on the bill yesterday, Douglas cried out as if in pain and hurried from the Senate chamber.

OUR WEATHER

Partly cloudy and a little warmer, continued warm to night and Wednesday. Widely scattered afternoon thunderstorms.

Sunrise, 6:03 A. M.; sunset, 6:36 P. M.

More Weather Data on Page 7-A

HURRICANE TRACKS

Did you know that hurricanes do not move differently at different times of the year? In early Summer they usually come from the West Coast. In the latter part of the year they come from the East.

August and September (and less frequently in July and October) they travel from eastern North America in a westerly direction, sometimes reaching our coast before recurring to the northeast. In the latter part of September, and in October and November, they again originate in the western Caribbean. These storms are more likely to recur northward and northeastward at lower latitudes.

Airies Commit UN Plane Hit as Being By Mistake

Reds Reject Change In Peace Talk Site

By DON HUTH

TOKYO (Wednesday)—(AP)—The United Nations command acknowledged last night that an Allied plane mistakenly strafed the Kaesong neutral zone Monday.

The Communists had not yet replied, but instead early today broadcast an official message rejecting Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway's suggestion that Korean truce talks be moved to some other site.

The message, broadcast by the Peiping radio in the name of North Korea Gen. Kim Il Sung and Chinese Red Gen. Peng Teh-Huai, said Ridgway's proposal to move was "completely unsatisfactory and unacceptable."

The message told Ridgway "these efforts of yours are futile" and then repeated all the old Red accusations that the Allies were "obstructing" the now-suspended armistice talks and had repeatedly violated Kaesong's neutrality.

The latest Red complaint was that an Allied plane machine-gunned Kaesong before dawn Monday.

OTHER CHARGES DENIED
Previous Red accusations have been dismissed as falsehoods and the message was caused.

The Monday strafing, however, was found to be true.

A message being sent to the Reds today through Vice Adm. C. Turner Joy, chief Allied truce negotiator, said:

"The United Nations command regrets this violation of the agreed neutrality which resulted from a pilot's error in navigation. Appropriate disciplinary action is being initiated."

The Allied reply notes that no casualties were inflicted and only slight damage was caused.

The U. N. command statement said a plane detected by Allied radar on Monday, Sept. 10, at the time of the Red-report strafing turned out to be a U. S. bomber.

The United Nations command, continuing radar plot including a directed identification turn, subsequent transmission indicates plane was one from Third Bomb Group. The pilot reports having strayed lights at 1:58 A. M.

It was believed to be a different area but which in view of the radar plot must have been Kaesong.

"Faulty navigation on pilot's part led to error."

Earlier the Communists warned the Allies to accept Red terms for resuming stalled Korean truce talks in Kaesong or "bear the responsibility for all the consequences."

They didn't say what "the consequences" were. But it could only mean resumption of full fighting in Korea.

The Reds broke off armistice negotiations Aug. 23, charging that an Allied plane bombed the conference site the night before.

Wilson Fears Steel Shortage

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson, declaring himself "shocked" at this Winter's steel industry production, said the industry had lost at least a million-ton increase in the first quarter of 1952.

Wilson said the industry lost 2,000,000 tons in the second quarter of next year—plus stepped-up scrap collection to make it possible.

"This is simply a question of the security of America," Wilson said.

He told a meeting of scrap experts from industry and Government that the mobilization program "cannot wait until the steel industry to attain its goals 'in some future quarter a year or two hence.'"

"If any of you had any doubts that we cannot deal with the Russian threat from any position but one of might, those doubts must have been dissipated by what happened in San Francisco," Wilson said.

Wilson was referring to Russian efforts to block the signing of a peace treaty with Japan at the San Francisco conference last week.

Wilson did not divulge the first-quarter estimate of production which he described as "a little great shock" when it was divulged to him at a meeting with the Defense Production Administration last week.

LOOKING FOR BULLET HOLES



An inspection team of Allied officers search for proof that twelve 50-caliber bullets were fired into the roofs of houses three quarters of a mile from the conference site in Kaesong. Yesterday the UN command admitted that a pilot had strafed the area by mistake. (Acme Telephone)

UMSTEAD EXPECTED TO ENTER GOVERNOR'S RACE

RALEIGH (AP)—Former U. S. Senator and Congressman William B. Umstead is expected to announce late today whether he will run for Governor of North Carolina next year.

Umstead, who is from Durham, has been mentioned for months as a likely candidate. He has written letters to friends saying that he is running and requesting their support in the race for the Democratic nomination.

The next few months are expected to bring discussions from several other persons who have been mentioned as possible contenders. These include State Treasurer Brendan Hodges, Dr. Henry Jordan, chairman of the State Highway Commission, and former Superior Court Justice Hubert Olive of Lexington.

Florence Chadwick Swims From England To France

SANGATTE, France (AP)—California's Florence Chadwick swam for a Danish swimmer, a wide-eyed Englishman, to the French coast from England.

The San Diego triathlete stalked out in a dense fog and rain. Little Sangatte beach to the cheers of a handful of French children and their parents.

Miss Chadwick was breathing easily. Her body was coated heavily with the grease to protect her from the channel's icy temperature.

She was disappointed when told by Tom Fowler of Britain—51 minutes faster than Miss Chadwick.

"Oh, I'm sorry," she said. She boarded a motor yacht then, and was bundled into blankets and surrounded by hot water bottles. She fell asleep in no time at all, and slept all the way back across the channel to England.

Girl Stabbed In Back By Enraged Suitor

DES MOINES (AP)—Pretty Terry O'Connor, 23, was stabbed in the back with a hunting knife as she approached the community rail during mass at St. Ambrose Catholic Cathedral today.

Police said John A. Masterson, 24, told them he stabbed the attractive brunette because "she told me she didn't want any more to do with me."

Miss O'Connor was hospitalized in critical condition. Masterson was in custody but no charge was filed immediately.

HE SEES CHURCHILL
PARIS (AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was invited to luncheon today with Winston Churchill as he is spending a brief vacation here.

Denies Spending To Bankruptcy

Magazine Article Hit By President

By ERNEST B. VACCARO
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Truman denounced a "just a pack of lies" today charges that waste and extravagance are running wild in the Government.

Such charges are based on meaningless "butterfly statistics," the President said.

He declared that those who claim the Government is spending itself into bankruptcy are doing so "to frighten voters—particularly as visions of elections dance through the heads of gentlemen who are politically inclined."

In a brilliant speech dedicating a new Government building, the President said emphatically that the United States is stronger economically than ever before.

He singled out for special criticism a recent magazine article purporting to show government waste as extravagance. He did not mention the magazine by name, but plainly referred to the "Digest" which carried a table of figures supposedly showing that non-defense expenditures had increased anywhere from 100 per cent to 1,000 per cent between 1940 and 1950.

"It was just a pack of lies," Mr. Truman asserted.

The table, he added, was an example of what the so-called "butterfly statistics"—statistics so meaningless that they even "do not know a fly from the right out of the air with a butterfly net—and that's where these came from."

Mr. Truman departed repeatedly from a prepared text.

He defended the right of Americans to grumble about paying taxes, but went on to say:

"A man will go into a night club and throw away 40 dollars and think nothing of it, but let him get a tax bill for \$30 and he'll be a different man."

KNOWS FIGURES
Mr. Truman said he knew personally what the figures in the budget he has submitted, while others "talk about the budget and don't know a fly from the right out of the air."

He said he didn't want to see a horse through being too stingy with the money, but he didn't want to see a horse through being too stingy with the money, but he didn't want to see a horse through being too stingy with the money.

Mr. Truman spoke at the dedication of the new seven-story Lincoln Building, a wide-eyed Englishman, to the French coast from England.

Using the brilliant language of a political campaigner, the President charged that a great deal of "misinformation" is being circulated about Government spending.

He said it is "done in ignorance and with some malice aforethought."

Of those he said have been talking of the threat of bankruptcy, Mr. Truman said:

"I don't know a fly from the right out of the air with a butterfly net—and that's where these came from."

See TRUMAN on page 7-A

NC Chosen Site Of International Radio Station

WASHINGTON (AP)—A State Dept. official today reported that North Carolina has been selected as the site for a powerful international broadcasting station.

Joseph Stieck, of the State Dept., said in a recent speech in division, told a reporter the definite site probably will not be announced for several weeks.

He said department aides made an exhaustive study of possible sites before deciding to put one station in North Carolina and another in Washington State.

"We have definitely decided on North Carolina," he said, "but are not naming the sites before studying to prevent land speculation."

He said the stations would be among the most powerful transmitters in the world.

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