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BY KELLY?

PDS WAR PLAN

PRDC 1/COL BASIN

April 28, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR ERIC ALLEN:

RE: COLUMBIA BASIN INTER-AGENCY COMMISSION

Oregon and Washington had a population, July, 1947 of 3,750,000. This was an increase in Oregon of 39.8% and Washington 26.7%.

By 1953 the combined population of the two states, assuming that the same percentage is maintained in both states, will be about 4,942,492. Practically 5,000,000.

- Where will you locate these people?
- What will they work at?
- What about housing?
- What about domestic water?
- What about utilities?
- What about services?

The answer is the development of natural resources.

These include lumbering, agriculture, electric power, chemicals, minerals and non-metallic minerals, etc.

More industries are translated into more housing, jobs and payrolls.

So the objective of the Pacific Northwest must be more industries.

There is an impression held by some people that industry means a vast manufacturing concern--such as an automobile plant--employing several thousands of workers. Industry, however, is made up of small concerns with not less than four on the payroll and from there on up. There are thousands of these small-business industries and the greatest industries in the country with their millions of invested capital and army of employees, all started from this small group.

It is better, too, for a community not to look for its wellbeing to a single wide-spreading industry, for when such closes down the community is hard hit. It is better for a community to have many small industries for then a depression or strike will not paralyze the town.

Industries are created by markets; someone sees the possibilities of supplying a certain commodity, and a new industry is born or an established industry in the east decided to locate a branch where the market exists.

The heavy increase of population in the Pacific Northwest is expanding a market that will continue to grow indefinitely. Industries will not neglect such a market, but will cater to it.

In addition to the domestic market, the potentialities of the Pacific Basin--Japan, China, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, etc.--are tremendous. The Pacific Northwest can provide many items needed in the countries of the Pacific. These possibilities are firing the imagination of a number of industries.

No individual or group brings national industries from the east to the Northwest. It is a cooperative effort. The agent for the management gathers information from all sources and on this data the decision is made.

Of vital importance is the preservation of the water supply of the Pacific Northwest.

There is but 8 inches of top-soil between the people of America and starvation. The earth can be compared to a thin-skinned orange, and the top-soil is the thin skin. Erosion and flood waters are steadily reducing this 8 inches. Floods are sweeping away the top soil to the Pacific Ocean in our section of the world and eventually we will be down to hardpan, unless soil conservation is given the fullest attention.

Impounding waters, by a series of dams, has been started in the Willamette Valley of Oregon to curb the floods which take toll of the top-soil. During these floods, which occur about every two years, the Willamette River is the color of chocolate as it tears away top-soil and deposits it along the Willamette

and Columbia Rivers and drops it into the ocean. This means constant work by the Corps of Army Engineers, dredging the channel to the sea. The top-soil thus removed, can never be replaced. The toll is being taken with every flood and the nibbling waters are gradually eliminating the life-giving few inches of productive earth.

Floods are becoming more frequent and destructive. Snows and rains, which for thousands of years maintained an equitable flow in the streams now are transformed into flash floods. Removal of forests and grasses which served as reservoirs for the snows and rains of winter is causing the increasing number of floods.

The watersheds, providing domestic water sources for the cities and towns of the Pacific Northwest, must be preserved or eventually there will be a water shortage, such as occurred in California a few months ago, with reservoirs practically empty and insufficient water for generation of power with a consequent "brown out". It can happen here as well as in California.

Forests must be preserved at the headwaters; pasturing sheep and cattle on the grass lands of the mountains must be curbed, or some day there are towns in the Pacific Northwest which may find domestic water rationed.

The rapid population increase in the Pacific Northwest--the greatest percentage increase in the Nation--requires attention to the domestic water supply. This subject is already receiving serious thought by the city councils of several municipalities. With a few exceptions the domestic water supply was engineered years ago but the growth of the cities is gradually catching up with the capacity. Domestic water will be a problem unless the present supply is augmented within a few years.

In the Willamette Valley, in Oregon, where the Corps of Army Engineers is constructing reservoirs to control floods, these reservoirs can be used to

supplement the domestic water supply of the major towns. Not all communities in the state will be afforded this relief and a general program for a systematic exploration for developing current supply and discovering new sources should be undertaken.

The growth of any town is limited by its supply of domestic water. It may struggle along with septic tanks for a time, but there must be an unlimited quantity of pure, unpolluted water for domestic and industrial purposes.

Disposal of sewage is in importance, exceeded only by a supply of wholesome domestic water. During the war years little was done in expanding sewer systems or building disposal plants. This is now a live issue everywhere and is becoming more acute as the town populations increase. Studies are being made by engineers and plans and estimates drawn up and the Oregon State Sanitary Authority is probing communities to install facilities with all possible speed.

Attention is directed to the growth of residential, business and industrial activities which are cropping up around scores of towns, just outside the city limits. This is a no-man's land where city ordinances do not apply and county courts have no jurisdiction. This fringe area is the result of real estate subdivisions/and a desire of city dwellers to have more elbow room, have a place for chickens and do without police and fire protection and pay less taxes. As a rule, these suburban dwellers work in the city but refuse to assume any of the city's obligations.

In one Oregon town the population of the fringe is as large, if not larger, than the incorporated limits. The fringe has a deplorable sewage situation, but the residents refuse to construct a sewer system of their own or extend the system of the city.

A suggested solution to the fringe problem is that the cities expand their limits or the county be empowered to impose regulations.

Many of these fringe areas are hazards to health because of inadequate sewers and lack of sewage disposal plants; using water from wells and the risk of fires.

Pollution

With cities emptying their sewers into rivers, the once pure and beautiful streams have become an eye-sore and a stench. This condition has been increased through the location of industries along the banks of the streams by adding waste product. Plants processing food and pulp and paper mills are the chief offenders. Existing laws fail to sufficiently curb the use of streams by these industries. In many instances there is no curb on the disposal of waste.

In some quarters there is fear that if the industries are ordered to deal with their waste in some other manner than dumping it into streams, the industry will display its resentment by abandoning the community which would cause the loss of a payroll and result in unemployment.

The time has come, however, when drastic action must be taken. Cities are planning to meet the issue of their own sewage waste and it is time for the food processing and pulp and paper plants to follow suit. A study is now being made by national associations of these industries, but at the present rate, years will elapse before they arrive at a decision. There is a possibility that the waste material can be given a treatment that will convert it into a by-product that will have commercial value--fertilizer, for example.

Using the rivers as open sewers is destroying fish life and robbing the streams of their recreational possibilities. Many such streams are no longer safe, from a health standpoint, for swimming and they are also objectionable for aquatic diversions and at the same time their attraction for sportsmen is diminishing rapidly. Drinking the water is out of the question.

There is some hope for the Willamette River and its tributaries, however.

The flood control reservoirs, now being constructed, will in a measure, release impounded waters into the tributaries and main stream in the summer months and will thus minimize pollution by dilution.

However, not all streams of the Pacific Northwest will have such flood control reservoirs to reduce pollution.

Through the efforts of the late Governor Earl Snell, of Oregon, a complete, scientific study was made of stream pollution in a number of rivers and by this survey each city on the banks of the stream was given the absolute facts of its particular pollution problem. Practically no two cities have the same situation.

There should be constructed in the Pacific Northwest at least one plant for the production of anhydrous ammonia. This will provide a source of material for plants manufacturing ammonium sulfate, for the farmers.

At present the west depends on the midwest and east for anhydrous ammonia and the availability is limited because of the thousands of tons of fertilizer being sent to Europe, China and Japan by the Army, causing a reduction of the amount of anhydrous ammonia available for domestic uses. The costs are also very high.

A plant for producing anhydrous ammonia can be built in the Pacific Northwest and electric power used for fuel. Such a plant would cost several millions of dollars and should be financed by the Federal Government or private capital. It would be a commercial business with an unlimited market in the region, and the Pacific Basin market as well, if production is greater than domestic requirements.

Depletion of the soil in the Pacific Northwest is already beginning to manifest itself, although this is a comparatively new country, and farmers are

demanding fertilizer to maintain production if they are to meet the demands upon them for food. Ammonium sulfate is a "must" for the wheatlands, the orchards, irrigation districts and specialty crops. It has been impossible to meet the requirements of the farmers as the plants converting anhydrous ammonia to ammonium sulfate have been forced to shut down through failure of attempts to induce the Army to allocate anhydrous ammonia for the farmers of the west and Pacific Northwest.

Of the nine plants which the Army built during the war, five have been disposed of to private interests and a sixth, the Cactus Ordnance in North Texas, is up for lease.

The solution to the fertilizer problem for the Pacific Northwest is to have a plant of its own to produce anhydrous ammonia.

The tourist business in the Pacific Northwest can be developed into the Number One Industry. We have the scenery and the highways, but we are lacking in sufficient adequate accommodations for the visitors.

A mistake which the average resident of the Northwest falls into is the fact that the tourist business is not confined to the vacation months of summer, approximately four months. The tourist season is now an all-year business and spreads for the 12 months from January to December. The peak load, of course, is in summer but traffic surveys disclose that there is a constant and steady stream of out-of-state cars rolling over the highways in all seasons and all months and this all-year business is on the increase, for the Pacific Northwest attractions can be visited and appreciated in every month and in all weather.

To estimate the number of visitors and the sum they spend in the Pacific Northwest a check is made almost invariably from June through September and the other eight months are ignored. Neglecting to canvass the out-state cars from October to May, makes the normal estimate inadequate. A check of the main

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... arterial roads in this neglected period will be an eye-opener to those who are curious as to the volume of tourists for a year.

While the "vacancy" signs are frequent at motels in the eight month span, still these establishments enjoy an appreciable number of customers. Along the coast, especially, the demand for accommodations is heavy and many motels are running at capacity in winter as well as in the vacation season.

What are needed in the Pacific Northwest are more first-class hotels and first-class restaurants. The tourist business demands these services, for not all tourists are looking for some cheap place to stay over night, nor a hot-dog stand. There is not a single trailer camp in the Northwest that is as modern and up-to-date as some of the delux establishments in California or the Southwest. Restaurants on the coast should specialize in seafood-- the tourist can find steaks and chicken in any town.

Hotels, motels, filling stations and garages, all of whom come in contact with tourists, should be thoroughly familiar with their state and highways and be able to give information about scenery, points of interest and recreations. They should be supplied with pictorial literature dealing with attractions the visitor may wish to see. A little background on historic events that have taken place in the immediate vicinity is another excellent talking point.

Be courteous and attentive to the tourist--it pays.