

## The K.K.'s Return —

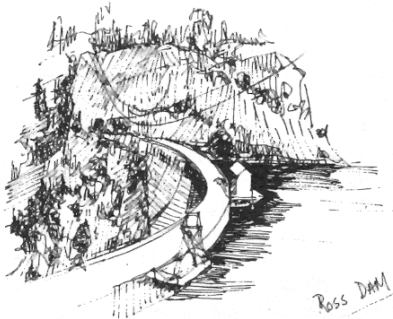
Editor's note:

It has been a year and a half since the fulminations of the Kerosene Kid have appeared in these pages. No one seemed to know what had happened to him, although there were rumors that he had moved to Cairo where he was serving as a consultant to President Sadat on ways to blow up Aswan High Dam. Of course, his peculiar talents were not really called for in reporting the results of the High Ross hearings before the Washington Ecology Commission and the International Joint Commission. Straight reporting was adequate to describe the proceedings before these rational bodies. As K.K. said in the note which accompanied this manuscript:

"What really turns me on is listening to those clowns in the Seattle City Circus, oops!, Council. I just had to come back to town to hear the Ross Dam hearing that wasn't a hearing. And I couldn't miss that Super Showman-Scientist, that Burton Holmes of the Kilowatt Circuit, the one and only Professor Grant Sharpe. Incredible!"

So, here it is.

# AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY



*by The Kerosene Kid*

It all began with John Miller and Bruce Chapman replacing troglodytes Charles Carroll and Ted Best on the Seattle City Council in last fall's elections. It now appeared that

conservationists would have a 5 to 4 majority on the council in any future votes on High Ross. Too, new things had happened since the old Council had voted 6-2 in December, 1970, to go ahead with the project. The Washington Ecology Commission had conducted hearings, and the Department of Ecology had officially opposed High Ross Dam. Governor Evans had opposed the project on behalf of the state government. The International Joint Commission had conducted 3 days of hearings and 6 months of studies on the dam's environmental impact, had found the project to be environmentally damaging, and recommended that at least 3 more years of study would be necessary. Canada's Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Jack Davis, had announced the official opposition of the Canadian Federal Government to High Ross Dam.

With a little pressure from the North Cascades Conservation Council, the City Council voted 5-4 to hold a public hearing March 31 on High Ross Dam and to consider the new developments since the vote of December, 1970. The new chairman of the Utilities Committee, Wayne Larkin, set up ground rules for the hearing that weighted the scales heavily in favor of City Light (So, what else is new?). The utility was to be allowed the entire morning to present its case, and the afternoon was to be devoted to public testimony, alternated between the pros

and cons, with each speaker limited to 5 minutes. The N3C had hoped to present a panel of experts as had been done in the Ecology Commission and the IJC hearings, but this set-up blew our plans. Finally our legal counsel got a concession from Chairman Larkin that we would be allowed a total of 50 minutes to present our case against High Ross.

Julian Whaley, acting superintendent of City Light, was Master of Ceremonies for the morning show, most of which was taken up by slide presentations. The P-R boys at City Light really believe that old statement of Confucius about the relative value of words and pictures. You've all heard the constant complaint by all types of polluters that environmentalists resort to emotionalism in their testimony. Talk about emotionalism! Julian's boys really plucked at the old heartstrings with their predictions that without High Ross housewives would have to give up their washing machines and dryers, hospitals would have to close down because of lack of juice for the X-ray machines, Seattle would have no power to provide for new jobs, there'd be no energy to clean up pollution, ad nauseum.

The highlight of the morning show was Professor Sharpe's new and much refined slide presentation. He had some great shots of little black kids from the Central Area riding up Diablo Lake in the City Light tug. What this had to do with High Ross (other than being a cheap attempt to influence Councilman Sam Smith) was not apparent. Grant then made a very theatrical presentation of his Cedar Study that he conducted last year. Predictably, this study showed that the cedar stands in lower Big Beaver were completely insignificant and contemptible compared to those in Little Beaver, Baker River, and the Chilliwack. Furthermore, the Professor said, there were 100,000 acres of cedars in Montana and Idaho, and millions of acres of cedar in Oregon and Washington. He then ridiculed the statements of plant ecologists that the cedars of Big Beaver were best suited for preservation as a research natural area. Why, all over the West cedar stands have been set aside for posterity. Waving a handful of brochures at the Council, he enumerated various cedar memorial groves and other protected cedar stands in state parks and national forests. Very impressive if one didn't know that some of these groves only consisted of a few acres, others were in areas devoted to mass recreation, and none were

suitable as research natural areas. Really, Dr. Sharpe has missed his calling. He could make millions as a spellbinding evangelist.

In the afternoon our Canadian friends made a strong presentation of their unyielding opposition to the dam. Ken Farquharson of R. O. S. S. told the Council: "If the slogan on the Peace Arch (Children of a Common Mother) means anything, don't raise the dam. We leave this to your conscience."

David M. Brousson, member of the B. C. legislative assembly, described the perfunctory original hearing conducted in Seattle in wartime in 1942 as a joke. He showed the Council that all political parties in Canada, both federal and provincial, are opposed to the project, and he described City Light's attitude on flooding the Skagit as, "at best, overbearing."

Attorney John A. Fraser of R.O.S.S. pointed out legal faults in the approval of the project by the I. J. C. and indicated that High Ross would be challenged in the Canadian courts. A single exception to the Canadian opposition was Charles W. Nash of B. C. Hydro who read a letter thanking City Light for furnishing power to British Columbia last winter and stressing the importance of power sources west of the Cascades. Although the B. C. provincial government denied responsibility for the letter, it was later disclosed that the statement had been solicited by City Light. Just goes to show what we've always said. All these utility characters sleep in the same bed.

After the Canadians, the N3C team had its 50 minutes. A new team member, physicist Dr. Henry F. Romer, brought new evidence to refute City Light's claims about the dam's economic feasibility. He pointed out that during the next few years of peaking power shortage in the Northwest, the existing reservoir would have to be lowered while High Ross was being constructed. City Light would add to the Northwest Region's power shortage by increased purchases from Bonneville during this period. Then, by the time the dam is built and the new reservoir filled, the Region would be in an era of peaking power surpluses, and the power from High Ross would be no longer needed.

A statement from Mayor Wes Uhlman was read by his environmental affairs assistant Michael Ruby. The mayor noted that he has examined all sides of the issue, personally

on this boondoggle in the past couple of years, and there's every indication that the rate of expenditures will increase.

Attorney Tim Manring of CHECC (Check on City Government) has demanded that City Light itemize total public relations costs of High Ross, having a hunch that the \$59,981 paid to Slaney for P-R work "is just the tip of the iceberg". Like us, Manring also questioned why Slaney & Co. should receive for its work in Canada six times as much as the University of Washington for similar studies south of the border. Acting Super Julian Whaley replied that Slaney & Co. was hired to do fish and wild-

life research in Canada because, "anything we do ourselves is suspect, so we hired somebody else"!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Would the University of British Columbia have worked for the same money as the University of Washington? Or were the conditions too restrictive? Whaley was "not personally familiar" with the \$132,800 sunk into the Canadian Skagit Project Fund, but he was "confident" that it could be well accounted for. We don't really anticipate that any explanations of any of this will ever be forthcoming. The heirarchy at City Light just doesn't feel any responsibility to anybody.



North Cascades Conservation Council President testifies against High Ross Dam before Seattle City Council.