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Columbia River Treaty

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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January 22, 1964

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

Senator Lee Metcalf and I believe the new agreements on the Treaty with Canada for Joint Development of the Columbia River could be the best thing that has happened to Western Montana since Hungry Horse Dam.

The new agreements, announced by President Johnson and Prime Minister Pearson, pave the way for completion of necessary financial arrangements, ratification by Canada, and an early start on the construction of Libby Dam and three Canadian storage projects.

Libby Dam, authorized by Congress in 1950, when placed under construction will provide a peak employment of 1,925 workers and a peak payroll of \$13,300,000 in 1969, and a total payroll of \$70,000,000 between 1966 and 1974, assuming start of construction in 1966, according to Bonneville Power Administration estimates.

Additionally, Libby construction would result in purchases of local materials and supplies totalling about \$18.2 million during the same 9 years.

Total Libby project cost will be some \$332,000,000. It will provide 5,000,000 acre-feet of storage for downstream flood control on the Kootenai and Columbia Rivers, and will produce 750,000 kilowatts of saleable firm power at site and downstream, combined.

The 750,000 kw figure is computed by applying the region's average 73 per cent load factor to the 544,000 kw of prime power attributable to Libby both at site and downstream.

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The treaty is an outstanding example of international cooperation. The agreement would result in tremendous benefits to both countries. Libby, by better regulating the Kootenai, will enable downstream Canadian dams on that River to produce an estimated 200,000 additional kw of firm power at low cost, and will provide important flood protection in Canada.

Flood control storage to be provided by Libby and the three Canadian storage projects will still fall short of the storage required to meet the Corps of Engineers' goal for ^{full} flood control on the Columbia River.

The negotiating teams for both the United States and Canada are to be complimented for their tireless efforts in bringing about a workable agreement on this most important issue.