

# Wildlife Federation Hears Endorsement Of Full Legislation by Game Commission

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CORVALLIS, Nov. 28 (Special)—Wherever full legislative authority has been delegated to state game commissions, wildlife resources of those states have been increased to a remarkable extent, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, chief of the federal fish and wildlife service, told some 200 delegates to the fifth annual conference of the Oregon wildlife federation here Thursday.

His comment, inspired by a resolution drawn by the conference at the request of Governor Charles A. Sprague, was "I believe that such action here in Oregon would be the best thing that could happen. A number of states have taken this step and in every instance have achieved a sensible, workable program. North Carolina is a typical example and I could name a dozen others."

## Resolution Approved

"Of course, such authority could be abused by a commission, but it is the privilege of the American people to kick unworthy public servants out of office and try a new set."

The delegates approved a resolution requesting federal authorities to employ revetments and levees in a portion of the Willamette valley flood control project. It was pointed

out that such a system would cost less than the dams now contemplated and would prove less of a barrier to migrant fish. Rivers specifically named in the document are the north and south forks of the Santiam, the middle fork of the Willamette and the McKenzie.

## Control Request Made

Other resolutions included a request for control of deep sea commercial fishing by the international fisheries commission, a motion to obtain additional funds for the state sanitary authority in its pollution research, a motion to amend state migratory waterfowl regulations to conform with existing federal restrictions and a resolution asking the state game department to investigate the feasibility of closing to angling the tributaries of all streams in their upper reaches.

Speakers on the closing program of the two-day session were E. E. Wilson, chairman of the Oregon state game commission; Arthur S. Einarsen, associate biologist of the fish and wildlife service; Ralph C. Rit-

tenour, state director of Pittman-Robertson project; Willard Jarvis, field biologist for the state game commission; W. J. Smith, president of the federation and chairman of the sessions, and Carl E. Green, state sanitary engineer.

As the closing act of the meeting, delegates re-elected William J. Smith, of Portland, as president. This is the fifth successive year Smith has headed the organization. Harrison Ellsworth, of Roseburg, was chosen vice-president, and Norman A. Davis, of Portland, was named secretary-treasurer.

## Against High Dams

The Oregon Wildlife Federation at its annual session in Corvallis yesterday joined the ranks of individuals and organizations opposing construction of four high dams on the Willamette river and its tributaries as being destructive of fish life. For the protection of farm lands that may be damaged by floods they advocated the building of levees to control freshet waters, a plan involving far less expense than the cost of the proposed dams.

The action was taken over the objections of William J. Smith, president of the federation, who urged moderation in opposition to the federal project and more studied consideration of the benefits from the dams claimed for agriculture.

Smith's plea was met with the statement of William L. Finley, Portland naturalist and vice president of the National Wildlife federation, that he would withdraw his objections to the dams if, before work is started upon their construction, a comprehensive study of relative benefits and damages to agriculture and fish life be made and the findings of fact followed.

Never since the valley flood control project was first projected has the damage to fish life, a valuable natural asset, been given the consideration to which it is entitled by the promoters of the scheme. The entire emphasis has been placed on the alleged agricultural and stream control benefits. Every effort to gain serious consideration of the threatened destruction of the Willamette river salmon run has been sidestepped or suppressed by those clamoring for flood relief and seeking to make of the stream a sluice-way down which to raft logs to the Portland and Columbia river mills, at the expense of development of the valley's milling industry.

It is high time the flood control project was scientifically studied from all angles before further construction is undertaken.

## Eugene, Ore. Register Wild Life Federation Concerned Over Dams

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CORVALLIS Nov. 29 (P)—The Oregon Wild Life federation scheduled action on the controversial Willamette valley dams today.

William L. Findley, Portland, vice-president of the national Wild Life federation, led an attack on the dams yesterday, and State President William J. Smith urged a moderate view.

Finley claimed the proposed dams would be too high for fish to pass, and would destroy the Willamette river salmon run.

Smith asked consideration of agricultural benefits of the dams. Finley agreed to halt objections if a comprehensive study would be made before construction.

The matter was referred to the resolutions committee which was to report today.

"Flash" dams built by logging operators drew criticism.

The federation unanimously urged a legislative bill requiring joint approval of such dams by the public service commissioner, the fish commission and the game commission.