

1964 hearings: Build big projects to assure water

In 1964, Utah Senator Frank E. Moss chaired a Senate Public Works Special Subcommittee on Western Water Development, which held hearings and published, in several reprintings over 1964-66, the proceedings detailing the North American Water and Power Alliance (Nawapa) and other project proposals to guarantee fresh water supplies to meet future needs. Here are excerpts:

From the Foreword by Senator Moss

Man's dependency on an adequate supply of fresh water is an indisputable fact. It is equally a fact that there is an insufficiency of such water and that this insufficiency has been particularly felt in the Western United States. Many efforts have been and are continuing to be made to solve the problem of limited water supply, and although great strides have been achieved, so great is the problem and so important its solution that it now has become imperative that consideration be given to what at one time seemed unachievable proposals.

The time has passed during which this problem can be solved through traditionally local or piecemeal app-

roaches. The solution must equal in magnitude the problem.

It is for this reason that a concept advanced by the Ralph M. Parsons Co., engineers-constructors of Los Angeles, to divert runoff waters of Alaskan and Canadian rivers through tunnels, reservoirs, and lifts to water-parched areas of North America demand attention.

From the Summary

If all the water resources projects now authorized or contemplated in the Western United States by Federal and non-Federal agencies actually are completed and added to those now in existence, they would total 3,151 individual projects. These would have a total cost of approximately \$60 billion and would provide 2,770,636,208 acre-feet of stored water and 209,795,100 kilowatts of electricity.

If the Nawapa concept is brought to fruition, it would encompass 369 projects, with less than half in the United States, costing approximately \$80 billion and providing 4,338,509,000 acre-feet of stored water and 99,788 kilowatts of electricity.

The water made available by the Nawapa concept would double present supplies, yet if completed by the year 2000 would still fall short of supplying total need. The Nawapa system provides nearly twice the water storage for use in the United States as is provided in current Federal planning.

import dependency in 1967 was centered on clothing at the final goods stage, and mostly intermediate goods and raw materials. By contrast, only 5 commodities in the area of consumption being greater than production were of machinery or capital goods—internal combustion engines, electric motors of less than one horsepower (fractional), metal-cutting machine tools, knitting machines, and compressors.

In 1967, the U.S. economy had 34 commodities in which domestic production exceeded consumption. These are items the United States exported. Fifteen of the 34 commodities in which domestic production exceeded consumption (44% of the total) were machinery or capital goods. The strength of the United States at the time is that it was a capital goods producer, both for its own needs and for export, which helped build, and did not suck from, the rest of the world. To refresh people's memories of what America was once capable of doing, we list these 15 commodities: tractors, metal-forming machine tools, spinning machines, looms, bulldozers, excavating machines, graders and levellers, liquid pumps, electric motors greater than one horsepower, transformers, ocean-going passenger and cargo ships, locomotive diesels, freight trains, trucks, and commercial aircraft.

This physical profile explains why in 1967 the U.S. economy was relatively healthy and why it ran a merchandise

trade surplus of \$3.8 billion that year. *EIR* does not have at hand consumption figures for 1990 (the Commerce Department reports many trade figures only in dollar terms, but not unit or tonnage terms, which makes it difficult to compile export and import, and thus consumption figures). However, it is known that the United States is no longer a net capital goods exporter, but an importer. To a large degree, as a result of this development, America has not run a single month's positive merchandise trade surplus for nearly the past 20 years. Worse, the United States cannot produce enough capital goods to support itself.

The devolution of the economy

Of the 74 representative goods that *EIR* started with in its producers and consumers' market baskets, it could obtain reliable comparison timelines for the period under consideration for only 60 items, or four-fifths of the items selected. Of those, 44 declined and 16 rose, or almost three times as many declined as increased. *EIR* did not start out picking items it thought would decline, or rise. It started by picking commodities which seemed to be the most essential goods needed for the producers' and consumers' market baskets. In fact, there are many food items which *EIR* is compiling for the consumers' market basket which, had they been included