

Lehman-Roosevelt Niagara Falls Bill Favored by Rural Electric Co-op Unit

The New York State Rural Electric Cooperative Association is on record today as favoring the Lehman-Roosevelt bill for the redevelopment of the hydroelectric potential of Niagara Falls.

In a joint resolution adopted yesterday at the Arlington Hotel, the association also called for the "earliest adoption" of legislation providing for the federal construction of the St. Lawrence seaway and power project.

A resolution favoring the two projects was adopted unanimously by leaders of the association after an all-day session.

FOUR REASONS LISTED

Four reasons were set forth in the resolution why the association believes the Lehman-Roosevelt bill should be adopted by Congress.

ONE—"Industry and farms, especially in the State of New York, most have cheaper power to compete in production with other states."

TWO—"The high cost of electric power and low margin of generating capacity over demand in New York State is a shameful record for the local utilities. The fact that this is true, in view of the availability of the great coal mines, oil and gas wells of Pennsylvania and the hydroelectric possibilities of New York State, is a strong argument against the surrender of the natural resources of the Niagara to their monopolistic practices."

THREE—"Other pending legislative proposals would not provide any relief from the present inequitable distribution of power from this great natural resource."

FOUR—"To meet the national emergency now demands development of the Niagara to supply much more power for the farms and industry of the Northeast and to lower the rate level for the whole area."

Besides the Lehman-Roosevelt proposal, two other measures are pending in Congress on the Niagara project.

NO SAFEGUARDS IN BILL

The New York State Electric & Gas Corp. and four other electric companies have set forth a plan for private development of additional power from the Niagara River. A House bill to permit private development has been introduced by Representative William E. Miller, Lockport Republican.

Mr. Miller, in offering his bill, said the proposal by Senator Herbert H. Lehman, Democrat-Liberal of New York City, offers no safeguards against the Federal Government keeping control of the project.

Representative Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., New York City Democrat, has introduced in the House a twin proposal to the Lehman plan.

Also pending before Congress is a bill offered by Senator Irving M. Ives, Norwich Republican, to permit the New York Power Authority to build the development.

IVES WANTS COOPERATION

At a Senate public works subcommittee hearing in Washington in August, Chairman John E. Burton of the New York Power Authority contended the Ives measure would establish federal-state cooperation rather than "the power monopoly sought by the Department of Interior."

Senator Lehman and his supporters argued at that time there is ample safeguard for an agreement to have the project turned over to New York State after construction.

But Mr. Burton contended the Lehman measure carries "an open invitation to the nullification of the bill's expressed intent" in its transfer agreement provision.

"If such an agreement is not negotiated," he said, "the project power shall be delivered and disposed of by the Department of Interior."

Under the transfer proposal to New York State, the cost of the project would be repaid by the state.

The Electric Association resolu-

tion observed that the proposed Lehman-Roosevelt measure "would preserve the scenic beauty of the Niagara Falls and provide for the most beneficial use of the waters of the Niagara for the development of power."

In addition, the resolution noted that it has been the "well-established policy of the American people to improve, use and preserve the natural resources of the nation for the public benefit."

President Truman asked Congress yesterday to appropriate \$1,000,000 in planning funds for the "urgently needed" redevelopment of the hydroelectric potential of Niagara Falls.

He also called upon Congress in his annual budget message to enact legislation that would permit starting construction of the project.

TREATY SIGNED IN 1950

Redevelopment of the falls was made possible under the terms of a treaty signed with Canada in 1950.

No specific reason was set forth in the resolution why the Electric Association favors the construction of the St. Lawrence seaway and power project.

But David G. Brown of Oneonta RD 1, president, told a reporter that power from the St. Lawrence project "would be needed within five years," even if the Lehman-Roosevelt bill is passed.

He criticized what he called the present high cost of electric power sold by private utilities to Rural Electrification Administration cooperatives in the state.

CONSUMPTION WILL DOUBLE

"With lower rates," Mr. Brown said, "consumption could be doubled."

The REA, an agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, was established May 11, 1935, by executive order of the late President Roosevelt and given permanent status in 1936 by the Rural Electrification Act.

In the field of rural electrification, REA is empowered to make loans to qualified borrowers, with preference to nonprofit and cooperative organizations and public bodies. Loans are made to cover the full cost of constructing power lines and other electric facilities to serve persons in rural areas who are without central station electric service.

The loans bear 2 per cent interest and are repaid over a maximum of 35 years.

REA HAS NO FACILITIES

REA itself operates no rural electric facilities and the amount of money it may lend is determined by Congress.

A statement by REA Administrator Claude R. Wickard was read to the association leaders by Allyn A. Walters of Washington, chief of the REA Press and Radio Service. Mr. Walters is a former Binghamton resident.

The statement noted that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950, the six REA borrowers in New York State bought 12,472,000 kilowatts of electric energy and paid an average price of 1.39 cents a kilowatt.

The 1951 rate dropped to 1.13

cents a kilowatt, the Wickard statement said, adding:

"These rates compare unfavorably with the national average of .86 cents per kwh (kilowatt hour) paid by REA borrowers for all the power purchased during fiscal year 1950. The average cost of power purchased from the commercial power companies for energy, sold to REA borrowers during the same year, was under 1 cent."

BETTER SUPPLY ASSURED

The Wickard statement contended that the proposed Lehman-Roosevelt bill "contains provisions which should insure that the rural people over a wide area will get more plentiful supplies of cheaper power which they so badly need to meet their production problems and to improve their living and economic conditions."

It is estimated that the 19 REA borrowers in New York and Pennsylvania could have saved \$1,054,820 in 1951 if the proposed Niagara power project had been in operation and if the cooperatives had "gotten full benefit of the lower generating costs," the REA administrator's statement said.

Representatives from five of the six REA cooperatives in the state were present at yesterday's meeting. Cooperatives represented are: Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Hartwick Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Delhi; Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Bath and Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Boushville.

The Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Electric Cooperative, Inc. of Cherry Creek, was not represented. Membership in the six cooperatives is said to be about 4,500.

Christmas Tree Burning by Scouts Herts Up Council

City Council fretted about Boy Scouts, Christmas trees and smoke last night.

Finally, First Deputy Public Works Commissioner Joseph A. Davis was authorized to burn the trees, between 8,000 and 9,000 of them, on the Stow Flats dump.

Republican Leader George J. O'Connor said he understood Boy Scouts from the area would make the tree-burning the occasion of a belated Twelfth Night observance.

Mr. Davis said the trees would be burned sometime this week.

Council's two newest members, 11th Ward Republican Thomas E. Hastings and 13th Ward Republican Robert F. Baker, showed some concern lest smoke from the fire disturb their constituents. Twelfth Ward Democrat John J. Rogan expressed the same hesitation.

Mr. Davis and some members of council said Christmas trees were destroyed in the same way last year without complaint. The deputy public works commissioner added that if the trees were buried they would not be suitable as fill.

He estimated only two hours would be needed to burn the trees and said the Fire Bureau would supervise the operation.

Marathon Pastor Here

The Rev. E. C. Haney of Marathon is speaking every night this week at 7:30 o'clock at the Gospel Mission, 39 Court Street. Services Sunday will be at 3:30 and 7:30 p. m.

Farm Electrification Setup For Six Counties Tabulated

Preliminary Census Bureau figures, which show the electrification program on farms in six counties as of April 1, 1950, follow in tabular form:

County	Farms	Telephone	Electric Power	Central Electric	Water	Waste	Washing	Refrigerators	Electric	Tractors
BROOME	3,313	58	95	94	63.1%	32.7%	88.8%	12	2.7%	1.7%
CHENANGO	2,859	70	84	83	30.5	33.5	89	20.2	55.7	1.7%
DELAWARE	2,254	87	83	89	27	38.1	89	20.2	55.7	1.7%
YOGA	1,810	68.9	94	94	69.5	28.8	87.9	18.8	48.2	1.7%
MADISON	2,389	69.4	91	91	62.4	31.4	82.7	22.8	56.5	1.7%
STUYVESANT	1,361	76	88	88	66.6	30.7	82.7	28.8	54.4	1.7%
TOTALS	124,977	71	92.8	93.5	63.8	31.9	81.3	23.4	46.7	1.7%

dent). He's a good Republican "At the guards," Mr. Hall went on, "I'd have Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Gen. James A. Garfield (both former Presidents). They are what we used to call 'Real Republican'."

"I'll probably be criticized for this, but as one of the tactics I've used have Frank E. Gannett (publisher of the Gannett Group of newspapers which includes The Binghamton Press), Frank Gannett head and shoulders above any Republican in the state."

"The tackle on the other side would be Governor Warren (G. Earl Warren of California, another avowed candidate for the Republican presidential nomination)."

"At the ends I'd put (G. Dwight D. Eisenhower and (S. Robert A.) Taft." (Mr. Taft an avowed candidate for the presidential nomination. General Eisenhower has said he would accept the nomination, but would not campaign for it.)

CALLING SIGNALS

"The captain and quarterback and he'll always call the sign for me—would be the greatest all Republican Abraham Lincoln."

"The halfbacks would be (Cal Coolidge and Teddy Roosevelt. They were both Republican presidents and carried the party through a good many years."

"At fullback I'd have (former President) Herbert C. Hoover," Hall said.

"At least, that's a football team or whatever kind of team you want to call it, that I'd be glad to call the water for. I'd be glad to rub them down. I'd be satisfied to be a substitute for any one of them."

"The team I propose is well ahead of any they've got in Alabama."

ATTACKS NEWSPAPERS

Mr. Hall closed his address charging that the newspapers in this area are "building up Mr. C. and 'tearing down Your Congressman'."

"Before I came here tonight had a talk with a reporter who told me, 'Eddie, the policy of certain paper locally is going to be to bring him (Mr. Cole) in and build him up so that the people in this district won't know anybody else is going to run against him.'"

(Mr. Hall refused to identify the reporter and the newspaper.)

"But I'm not pessimistic," Hall said. "The average Republican is sick and tired of monkeying around with these fellows who have nothing to do with people."

"I believe," he said, "this satisfaction can be capitalized. And you can bet your hot dollar I'm going to capitalize it."

Petition Protests Proposed Rezoning In Fifth Ward

Twenty-four Fifth Ward property owners are protesting a plan to zone lots at 18 and 18 1/2 Pennsylvania Avenue to permit location of a welding shop on the property.

The protest was contained in a petition filed with City Council last night by Joseph J. Dawson of Zane Road.

Rezoning of the lots, which are near the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Zane Road, requested two weeks ago by Michael Pompeii and Isaac Feinberg joint owners.

The area is presently zoned residential use. It would be changed to light manufacturing under the request.

Safety of children living in neighborhood was stressed in petition opposing rezoning.

"Children are being reared permitted to play, with reasons safety, because of the zoning change," the petitioners said.

They also emphasized that area is a high-assessment zone "because of the zoning statutes," said that one of the "primary reasons for property purchase ownership in the area was residential zoning assurance."

"A zoning commitment should be inviolate," they added.

Botnick in School Choir

Matthew G. Botnick, 11 Cabell Road Court, is a member of the Blair Academy Choir, which will sing Sunday afternoon at the Prospect Presbyterian Church (Maplewood, N. J.). His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Saul W. Botnick,