

Muench Opposes Sullivan's Proposal to Dam Wolf River

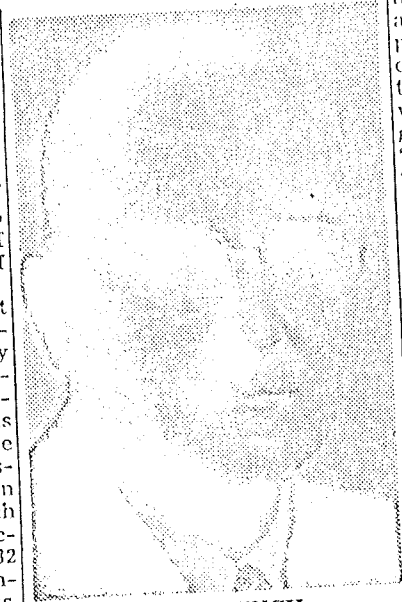
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In the interest of conservation (which means the ultimate interest of all the people) the article of Dr. W. C. Sullivan, utilities commissioner of the city of Kaukauna, advocating the expenditure of taxpayers money to dam the Wolf river cannot go unchallenged.

We have consulted competent engineers and have had the comprehensive survey of the Wolf by the army engineers in 1932, carefully analysed. The army engineers report indicates that it is impractical to dam the Wolf. The cost of such dams and transmission lines is too great in relation to the amount of power which could be generated. The construction cost is prohibitive in 1932 must be doubly so now due to increased labor and material costs. And, the Wolf cannot produce more electricity today than it could in 1932.

"Cheaper From Coal"

The total amount of power the Wolf could generate (using the doctors' own figures) is insignificant and meaningless. Approximately 350,000 H. P. is now being generated in N. E. Wisconsin by steam and hydro plants. If the Wolf could produce all the power all of the time that Dr. Sullivan claims it could produce, it could not add more than 3.7 per cent to the total power now being generated in this area. There is no power shortage, and, the Wisconsin Public Service company which owns many water power sites is now building steam plants to generate electricity rather than develop the hydro sites because they have learned, except in rare instances, it is now cheaper to produce electricity by coal.



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Reliable engineers claim the small amount of electricity the Wolf could produce, would not lower the cost of electricity to users one single penny, except perhaps to the Kaukauna utilities commission. And, power produced at such great cost cannot possibly be produced at a profit to the Indians.

So much for the economics involved. However, there is more to this Wolf river proposal than dollars and cents alone. Expressed in the Sullivan article is the kind of thinking and kind of half truth propaganda which has been largely responsible for the loss of America's heritage of natural resources.

"Beware The White Man"

We must bear in mind that the proponents of dams on the Wolf have private special interests at heart. Dr. Sullivan represents the utilities commission of the city of Kaukauna. Kaukauna generates and sell its own power. They would like to sell more power. He was also one of the first to oppose pollution abatement and suggest that "dams would flush the Fox." We need not elaborate to define the interests who would "flush the Fox" like one flushes a sewer. The fact the bay, which is the receptional for the doctor's flushing, is already shamefully and grossly polluted for more than 30 miles beyond the mouth of the Fox, apparently is of no importance to him.

He is concerned about a wind-storm that blew down a few trees on the Indian reservation. He would alert the federal government to the dangers wind storms present to the security of the Indians. But he isn't concerned about the 100 foot swath the transmission lines would cut through the Indians' timber, or, about the untold acres of timber land the ponds would inundate.

Indians are not afraid of wind-storms, they are a natural act of nature. It has been said "a wind storm is God's pruning shears." But if the Indians have learned anything from the past, they should be alerted to the dangers involved when the white man lays

his covetous and greedy eyes on anything of value the Indians possesses. No tornado that ever blew has been as destructive to the Indians as the devastation which followed the white man's greed so often camouflaged as, "benefits to the Indian"—just like the scheme to dam the Wolf.

Dr. Sullivan employs the technique of the old time tent show medicine man. He expounds the benefits of his "cure all" dam concoction which he claims, "will rid the country of Communism, furnish economic security to the Indians, provide cheap electricity, control floods, better fishing and raise the water tables." But the old time herb doctor always got his dollar per bottle—and the dollar per bottle was the reason he was so interested in selling his medicine.

Keep Falls and Trout Streams

Dr. Sullivan does not know that power dams are not flood control dams. Power dams must be full of water. Flood control dams must be empty.

The Menominee Indian reservation is world famous. It draws people from all over the nation. Why? Because it is almost all that is left in the midwest that has been saved from the white man's "progress." Nothing much more remains of the Indian's heritage. Its beautiful water falls, magnificent timber, it's unspoiled wilderness—its very uniqueness is itself the greatest asset the Indians possess. With population increases, with more and more of the country reduced to the white man's fleeting dollars, the unspoiled reservation becomes more valuable with each passing year. Both the Indians and the white man need the immeasurable intangible values the reservation possesses.

Dr. Sullivan would change all this. He would sacrifice all these values, silence the river, destroy the falls and make bull head pools out of one of the last remaining important trout streams in the state. This he would do for a few unneeded kilowatts of power for the benefit of the Kaukauna utilities commission.

He claims the Wolf dams would help stop Communism. Doesn't he and the other dams interests know the quickest way to bring Communism here is to continue to spend the taxpayers money in huge sums for the benefit of the few at the expense of all? Doesn't he know that the billions of increasing national debt caused by pressure groups forever demanding special benefits at taxpayers expense can ultimately bankrupt this nation and open the door wide to Communism? Aren't the dam interests aware of the fact that the constant encouragement of federal spending on little power projects at taxpayers expense and in competition with private industry and utilities poses as great a threat to free enterprise as presently exists?

"Most Expensive Power"

If the doctor doesn't realize it, Communism represents a type of spiritual decay which feeds on soulless materialism—the kind of

materialism which sees only dollar values in every environmental factor—men so avaricious they can see no other values in nature but monetary ones.

Electricity made at the sacrifice of all the other priceless values in a river like the Wolf is the most expensive electricity man can produce. Let's be honest. Let us not hide the selfish desires of a few behind a cloak of concern for the Indian. No one is being fooled. It would be more forthright for the doctor to come out in the open and say, "We want the Wolf dammed, even at the expense of all the people and the Indians in particular, so that we in Kaukauna can have more power to sell." It would be better for the paper mills to come out and say "We want the taxpayers to build more dams for us because we want more water."

Then with the issues clear and the interests defined if the people want to give their rights and that of their children in the Wolf to these special interests only the unborn will complain. For, the Wolf really belongs to those yet unborn.

Eight Fishermen Drown

KODIAK, Alaska —(T)—Eight fishermen drowned Sunday Chignik lagoon when their ski overturned in rough seas. Two other men aboard succeeded swimming to shore. The men were employees of the Kodiak Fisheries