

Ellensburg, Washington  
June 11, 1952

Dear Paul:

Late last week I received a letter from Claude Zoder in which he suggested that it would be a good idea for me to attend the meeting on cloud seeding in Olympia last Saturday for two reasons: That the subject will become more and more important and any legislation on it might affect the welfare of farmers under irrigation projects, and "it gives a wonderful opportunity for you to become better acquainted with some members of the legislature and those working closely with them..." Considered from that angle, Gale and I thought it might be a good idea for me to attend the meeting, although there was no time to get the ideas of any of the other Directors on the subject. This will constitute a report of the meeting for you and the other Directors of the Association.

There were about 40 people present at the meeting. Five members of the Subcommittee were there—the Chairman, Senators Zadnick, Roup, Barlow, and one other whose name I didn't get. The meeting lasted two hours. At the beginning a film was shown by the Water Resources Development Corp. (Dr. Krick's organization) covering the process used in cloud seeding. After this film, the Chairman announced that in order to save time and yet give each group present a change to be heard, he would like to have one person do the talking for each group.

He called first the Cherry Growers Association, which was represented by Mr. Roger A. Neal of Yakima. You are all probably well acquainted with their complaint. Mr. Neal recommended close supervision of any cloud seeding and that any legislation passed should make those doing such seeding financially responsible for any damages to crops. Mr. Leo Horrigan represented the wheat growers and spoke for them. There were people present from the Forestry Service, the University, several meteorologists, the Krick organization, and others. Dr. P.E. Church of the Dept. of Meteorology & Climatology of the University presented a resolution, which, I believe, pretty well covered the thinking of those who were present. This resolution recommended that operators of rain making projects be licensed, that the operators be required to pass a written examination to prove their professional ability, that the time and place of every weather modification project be published three weeks in advance, that operators keep complete records of their activities, and that all such records be open to public inspection. At any mention of control, Mr. Neal would pop up and say, "we agree with that, but you haven't covered the subject of damages", or words to that effect.

An Attorney for the Krick interests talked rather lengthily, but didn't say too much. His main point was a warning against the hasty passing of legislation against anything, although he was the first to bring out that several other states have already passed legislation to control cloud seeding and he also mentioned a hearing in Washington, D. C. on the subject. He said his organization was perfectly willing to be licensed but, of course, he didn't mention the subject of being responsible for damages at all. Several times during the discussion mention was made that cloud seeding was "still in the experimental stage" and the Krick people particularly were cagey about making definite claims about what has been accomplished.

The Chairman did not call on anyone from the irrigation group. (Harry Allyn was there as a representative from the Washington State Reclamation Assn.) So when the Chairman asked for comments at the close of the meeting I thought I might as well let them know we were represented there anyway so, since I had nothing to contribute on the subject of cloud seeding as such, I suggested that the hearing be given more publicity among the farmers as I know considerable resentment had

been caused by rain making and whenever there is unusual weather it is blamed on cloud seeding, so I recommended that the farmers be informed of the work of the committee as I was sure they would feel better if they knew there was some prospect of control.

After the close of the meeting I talked a little with Senator Barlow about the subjects this Subcommittee might take up, having in mind particularly the suggestion we received about legislation in connection with sprinkler irrigation. As I was waiting to talk to the Chairman, Harry Allyn asked me to lunch with him and Senator Roup. Senator Roup is one of the Democrats who were called the "rebels" at the last session and therefore closely allied with my cousin, Senator Ted Schrooder. He is also a good friend of Bob Rutter. He has been in the Senate since 1936 and I believe has quite a bit of influence. I gathered he will run again for reelection, and Bob Rutter says he would be hard to beat. We can thank Harry Allyn for my becoming acquainted with him.

My impression from the meeting is that undoubtedly there will be some legislation introduced for the control of cloud seeding, probably based pretty much on Dr. Church's resolution, but I doubt (which is just my own idea) if any mention will be made in it of damages to crops. Chairman Bernethy said the committee has copies of the legislations passed by other states and of the report on the hearing in Washington. Apparently there has been a bill introduced in Congress on the subject, Senate Bill No. 2225, but there was no definite discussion of what it contains.

I rode back to Seattle with Harry Allyn after lunch and we had a long talk about the Portland meeting and the Washington State Reclamation Assn. He is very anxious to get the W.S.R.A. back into the farmer fold and said his principal reason for going to Olympia was to see Cecil Clark, who was supposed to be there, and talk with him about it. Allyn is still of the opinion that our Association should make some effort to get people on the Board of the W.S.R.A. who are more in sympathy with the ideas of our Association and whom we can work with.

Yours,

Ted

Cc All Directors  
Legislative Committee