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BATTLE OF ROSS
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Our previous installment (December 1969-January 1970 Wild Cascades) in the engrossing history of Electric John Nelson versus the Environmentalists ended just as we learned that our neighbors north of the border were coming into the fight on the side of the guys in the white hats. The first Canadians to voice their opposition to High Ross Dam were members of ROSS, a felicitous acronym standing for "Run Out Skagit Spoilers."

ROSS first came to our attention in December when its secretary wrote to Mayor Uhlman and the City Council, announcing its formation and its avowed purpose of fighting to the last ditch to prevent the flooding of the upper Skagit Valley within British Columbia. ROSS also stated its intention of intervening before the Federal Power Commission if the City of Seattle let the matter go that far.

Early in January, John Massey of Vancouver, President of ROSS, Terry Simmons, chairman of the Sierra Club of British Columbia, and David M. Brousson, a member of the B. C. Legislative Assembly, came to Seattle to join with American conservationists in opposing High Ross Dam. Because President Goldsworthy had organized the press conference at which the Canadians expressed their views, he has since been accused by City Light's PR people, including Dr. Sharpe, of also instigating the British Columbian opposition.

Says Pat: "I'm flattered that our opponents feel the North Cascades Conservation Council is so powerful that we can merely push a button and turn on a full scale press campaign in our sister province to the north. As a matter of fact, ROSS is an organization completely indigenous to British Columbia, and I had never met John Massey or David Brousson until after I invited them to Seattle. City Light will eventually come to realize that there is more resistance to High Ross than just that from a little band of 'hysterical preservationists' here in Seattle."

The storm of Canadian opposition, while it may have left Electric John unmoved, has already had some salutary effects on B. C. bureaucracy. A scheduled sale of the timber in the Skagit Valley has been cancelled until after the Federal Power Commission decision. There is also speculation that City Light must seek the approval of the Canadian national Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources. We don't wish to add to Electric John's woes (much!) but he can't say we didn't promise him TROUBLE over this High Ross issue. It seems to be shaping up nicely in British Columbia.

COVER: "When the tide is out on Ross Lake" -- taken especially for the Photographic Book "Clear Cool Water" by Harvey Manning and Bob & Ira Spring, to be published in the fall of 1970 by Superior Publishing Co., Seattle.