

# THE CONCRETE HERALD

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## STATE FISHERIES AGAINST SKAGIT DAM AT FABER

Strong opposition to the proposed Faber dam on the Skagit River can be found elsewhere than in the upper Skagit valley, we find. At a Kiwanis club meeting in Mount Vernon Monday afternoon, State Senator Barney Jackson, public relations officer of the state department of fisheries, voiced his opinion that such a dam would seriously jeopardize the entire Skagit river basin's \$1,185,500 commercial fishing industry, while still remaining an ineffective solution to the flood control problem.

Mr. Jackson was chairman of the senate fisheries committee and is the head of the interim fisheries committee studying proposals for future development of the industry.

In his talk he said that the Faber dam, if constructed, will so diminish the Skagit river in fisheries importance that it will no longer rank as a contributor to the wealth of the state. At present the river is second in importance to the Columbia river, and the new Marblemount hatchery and other work planned for the future will raise it's value over a million and a half dollars.

At present the Skagit river contributes 48 percent of the commercial Chinook salmon fishing industry of the Puget Sound area. Along with this there is the sport fishing that brings many dollars to this county because of the river.

As far as flood control, the dam at Faber, he stated, could not prevent a major flood but might serve to delay it. He pointed out that a fair way to judge the worth of the dam would be a 25 year period comparison between flood damage and damage to the fish run. Damage to land can be repaired, but the damage to fish life is permanent.

He closed with the statement that intelligent study of flood control problems could surely find a more practical solution than a dam at Faber and the destruction of salmon fishing in the river.