

# POWER PRICE AT U. S. DAMS MAY BE MADE EQUAL

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Details of Ross Plan Presented to Roosevelt Yesterday, Revealed

**HYDE PARK, N. Y., Oct. 28.**

—Details of the plan presented yesterday to President Franklin D. Roosevelt by J. D. Ross, Bonneville dam administrator, to equalize the price paid by consumers for power generated by the big federal-financed water power dams, were released here today.

The president yesterday directed Ross, to apply a rate-setting formula to Bonneville dam which will repay the government investment within 40 years with interest at 4½ per cent, and Ross said he believed the same system of charges should also apply to Boulder dam, Tennessee Valley, Grand Coulee and other similar government projects.

**BRIEFLY, ROSS'** plan was this: The federal power commission would decide what portion of a dam's total cost would be allocated to power. That figure should be amortized in consumers' rates over a 40 year period with 3½ per cent interest on the government's money and operating costs figured into the charges.

"That way" Ross explained, "all the government projects would get his power money back in 40 years, and then go on to greater things."

**"BESIDES, EACH** section would have the same rate. There would be no discrimination with one part of the country having the advantage of lower electricity rate than another."

There is no uniform government rate now. Boulder dam charges were based on 4 per cent interest payments, and Los Angeles civic groups protested that Bonneville would undersell them and attract industry away from California.

In the Tennessee valley, the government figured no interest rate into its charges. Ross said that was because of T. V. A.'s "admittedly experimental nature."

**LOCAL, STATE** and federal taxes have not been figured into the government's rate computations. Ross said he had not considered those items. Private utility interests have attacked the federal power policy on that point.