

Racketeers' Machine Ruining American Legion, Assertion Of Ex-Commander Belgrano

SALEM, Aug. 5.—(AP)—Frank L. Belgrano, Portland banker and former national commander of the American Legion, lashed out sharply Thursday at national Legion officers who he said are "a well-oiled machine" serving their own interests.

Before 1,200 shocked and surprised delegates to the State American Legion convention, Belgrano said the national Legion will become bankrupt because of "a machine of racketeers who are ruining the whole Legion set-up."

Belgrano said he would go to the national convention in Philadelphia late in August and start a campaign against all of the national officers.

He declared the Legion is one of the most powerful organizations controlling the nation's economy and government.

"Therefore," he said, "a person who is a leader in the Legion is able to control much in the manner he sees fit."

He charged that national Legion officers vote themselves big salaries, and make deals to appoint each other to fat committees.

"If there are not enough committees to accommodate these men," he said, "then new committees are organized—not because the committees are needed, but so that machine members will not be left out of the picture."

Belgrano declared that the problem of "racketeers" in national Legion offices has arisen only since World War II.

More World War II members are needed, he said, in order that the Legion "can break away from this corrupt condition."

He said national Legion officers "don't believe in the cardinal principles of the Legion. They only believe in themselves."

The delegates, after they began to get over being shocked, applauded him vigorously.

International Fair Idea Endorsed By Truman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—(AP)—President Truman Thursday voiced his support of a proposed international fair in the United States next year to stimulate international trade.

Mr. Truman told his news conference he thought the idea for such a fair is a very fine thing. He said the matter is under consideration officially, but he did not go into details.

A newsman had mentioned a report suggesting that such a



LATEST IN SERVICE—Don Johnson's Union Oil service station at the corner of Stephens and Lane streets reopens Saturday, following completion of the structure which replaces the one built in 1938. Featuring "Minute Man" service, the new station is equipped with the latest in lubrication and service equipment. Slated for installation soon is a modern portable oil change unit which will change oil anywhere on the lot while the motorist remains in his car. The heated rest rooms feature tiled floors and walls, indirect lighting and foot-operated plumbing fixtures. The station, one of two Union Oil service stations in Roseburg, will employ four persons including owner Don Johnson. Local contractors who worked on the project include Coen Plumbing, Trowbridge Electric and Roseburg Paving companies.

Forest Fire Research Advisory Board Formed

Director J. A. Hall, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment station, has announced formation of the station's new forest fire research advisory committee.

The committee will review periodically the status and problems

of forest fire control in the Pacific Northwest region for the purpose of insuring that plans for fire research will meet existing needs and that selection of priorities for the program of research is sound.

In organizing the group, Hall emphasized that its individual members were chosen not as representatives of specific agencies but as individuals experienced and skilled in the techniques and research requirements of forest fire control. Similar regional advisory committees are planned for other parts of the West as well as an all-western forest fire control and research committee comprised of members selected from the several regional committees, according to Hall.

Mr. Truman said he was familiar with the idea. He said its purpose would be to make sales of U. S. products easier and also make it easier to import products.

He said the government is looking into the proposal officially but said the fair is in the embryonic stage.

PASTOR DIES
PORTLAND, Aug. 5.—(P)—Dr. Bernard B. Sutcliffe, 76, chairman of the board of Multnomah School of the Bible and former pastor of the First Presbyterian church at Tacoma, died here Thursday.

Born in Nova Scotia, he first came to Portland in 1921 to organize Bible classes.

Diamonds are often used to draw very fine wire.

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Softball Teams Battling For Tourney Entry

EUGENE, Aug. 5.—A new Oregon softball champion appears inevitable when the five-day 16th annual tourney is concluded here Sept. 1. Steen's Marketmen of Eugene won the championship at Baker last summer, but Rubenstein Furniture looms as the likely host club. The Rubes will have no inside track in the title picture as some 600 softball teams throughout the state are battling for the 15 other berths in the single-elimination tournament opening under the arch here August 28.

There isn't a community in the state that can boast a clear-cut championship contender. In Salem, where the state tourney was held for many years and is really the "birthplace" of Oregon softball, the Paper Makers and Mooty Pharmacy are still battling for top honors.

The Pendleton area will soon start an elimination tourney between either the Elks or Harris Pine Mills of Pendleton, Piersol's of Hermiston and Utah Canning of Milton-Freewater. Klamath Falls leaders are the Eagles and Merrill Billiards. Medford boasts one of the strongest teams in the state in Andy's Jewelers. Whitaker Hardware and the Elks are battling for the pennant at Albany, and Hechart's of Corvallis looks like a winner.

In Bend it's Child Hardware, at Cottage Grove the Knights of Columbus lead. Umpqua Plywood and Scherrer Squirrels tops the Roseburg circuit, and at nearby Springfield it's a four-team race.

Reminders issued
State Softball Director Don January reminds all district leagues that the usual \$10 association membership fees must be posted by August 12 for holdover members and by August 15 for new members—and that district playoffs must be completed not later than midnight August 26.

January has also announced the selection of tournament umpires—Ronald C. Derr of Portland, umpire-in-chief; Dr. Rodney F. Smith, Corvallis; Charles J. Christensen, Eugene, and Dick Helmer of Portland, alternate.

Cottontail rabbits are born helpless, blind and hairless.

LARCENY CHARGED
Roy Kimball, 48, Kimball, S.D., was arraigned in justice court yesterday on a charge of larceny in a dwelling house, according to Justice of the Peace A. J. Geddes.

Kimball was committed to the county jail and bail set at \$500. He was arrested Wednesday by city police.

ADMINISTRATRIX NAMED
Lela Ethel Miller has been named by the county court as administratrix of the estate of the late Chester A. Miller.

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