

RAIN LIMITS CROWD

Portland Business District Emptied in Half-Hour Time

PORTLAND (AP)—Portland emptied its business district in little more than a half-hour Tuesday in a civil defense test aided considerably by persistent rain and some shrewd guesswork by Portlanders.

Sirens sounded a mock air raid alarm at 3:10 p.m., the previously announced signal for everyone in a mile-square area of the business district to clear out.

It was supposed to catch Portlanders by surprise — they had been told only that the alert would come Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday — and civil defense observers from widely scattered points were on hand to watch.

Shoppers Missing

But rain had kept many Portlanders at home. Many others had guessed the test would come Tuesday afternoon, and the usual crowds of shoppers were missing.

An hour before the test there were blocks of parking spaces available on the usually crammed streets. There were no more persons on the street than on an average Sunday.

Evacuation Swift

Still, there were thousands left in the area, and civil defense officials praised the swiftness of the evacuation.

All traffic lights on the exit routes stayed green as police began ordering all cars out of the 1,000-block area. Pedestrians were told to walk out of the area. Hundreds crossed over the five business district bridges over the Willamette river. Others headed toward residential areas to the south and west.

Pruett Services To Be Held Today

By Associated Press

Funeral services for J. Hugh Pruett, 69, astronomer and educator who died at his home here Sunday, will be held today at 2 p.m.

A member of the University of Oregon faculty from 1923 until his retirement in 1951, Pruett continued active in astronomy after retirement. He wrote extensively of the subject and was made a director of the American Meteor society.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Della Blaisdell, Portland.

Egypt, Israel Conditionally Agree to Troop Drawback

JERUSALEM, Israeli Sector (AP)—Egypt and Israel agreed conditionally Tuesday to a U. N. request that they withdraw their troops from the demilitarized zone along the Sinai borderline.

The request was made Monday by Canadian Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, chief of the U. N. observer corps in Palestine. He first asked that both sides pull back their forces by 6 p.m. local

Zhukov Wishes Ike Speedy Recovery

LONDON (AP)—Moscow radio broadcast a "get well" message to President Eisenhower Wednesday from his wartime Russian associate, Marshal Georgi Zhukov.

"Being on leave and far from Moscow, I only now have been suddenly informed about your illness," the Soviet defense minister cabled.

"Deeply moved by this, I and my entire family wish you speedy recovery and long years of life."

Shoppers were turned out into the rain, and stores closed.

In the first 15 minutes traffic seemed to be jamming up badly — principally because some motorists were being too co-operative. They were stopping to pick up pedestrians in an attempt to speed evacuation.

But in a five-minute period these jams cleared, civil defense observers reported, and 25 minutes after the sirens sounded the main streets were practically deserted.

Detectives Left

Officially the entire area was declared empty 34 minutes after the test started. The only persons left were essential workers and squads of detectives roaming the streets to guard against any looting attempt.

Fifty minutes after the start, the sirens sounded the all-clear and Portlanders began filtering back into the area. Not all went back, however.

Holiday for Many

For many of the store clerks and office workers the rest of the day was a holiday, for their employers had decided to stay closed.

Police said there were no traffic accidents in the evacuation area, despite the period of jamming, when there was some difficulty in getting traffic from feeder streets onto arterials.

One civil defense worker, however, died after a heart attack. Alden E. Erickson, 50, a traction company employe assigned to a civil defense station at the rim of the area, collapsed midway through the test. He was dead on arrival at a hospital.

Many of the evacuated were anxious to get back. By the hundreds they lined up along S. W. Montgomery street, the south edge of the evacuated area, and waited patiently in the rain until the all-clear sounded.

The evacuation ended swiftly when the sirens sounded. The streets, some of them almost deserted before the alert sounded, filled quickly with cars. The sidewalks filled with pedestrians.

Police Tow Cars

Even the parked cars had to be cleared from the streets, and motorists rushed to get to them before police tow cars could move in.

The peak of the rush came early. The civil defense observer at the Burnside bridge, carrying traffic to the east side, said cars were moving at the rate of 65 a minute about seven minutes after the test started.

Flow Reduces

By 3:21 p.m., the flow was down to 43 a minute; by 3:30 p.m., down to 36 cars, and by 3:37 p.m., only an occasional straggler came by.

Some Portland-bound drivers, stopped at the western outskirts of the city during the test, expressed impatience at having to wait for the all-clear, but police said none tried to sneak by the check points.

Hospital Releases 2 Portland Women

PORTLAND (AP) — Mrs. Avera Ferguson, 52, and Mrs. Bernice Sharkey, 73, left a hospital Tuesday, recovered from the effects of being lost a week in the woods without food or water.

The Portland women went for a drive, but the car became stuck in mud on a back road above the Columbia gorge near Multnomah falls. When they tried to walk down to the Columbia River highway, they became lost in a canyon, and it was a week before rescuers found them.

Peron Free to Go, States President

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Although the Paraguayan gunboat carrying Juan D. Peron still bobbed outside Buenos Aires port, Provision President Eduardo Lonardi said Tuesday night the deposed dictator is free to leave at any time.

He implied the Paraguayan government was holding up the one-time strongman's departure into exile.

Lonardi also declared he did not think Peron represents any threat to the revolutionary government.

The ousted president fled to the gunboat for asylum a week ago in the face of a successful army-navy revolt. The new government promised him a safe conduct for the trip to Asuncion, Paraguay's capital, but so far has not issued the formal document.

Boeing Conducts Plane Experiment

SEATTLE (AP)—Five million dollars worth of bombing plane is being pulled, squeezed and squashed to pieces here to prove its structural strength.

The builder, Boeing Airplane company, described the "torture test" on the B53 jet bomber as the most extensive structural proving program ever conducted on a single airplane.

In one phase a bomber wing was flexed past the breaking point, a test in which the wing tip described an arc of more than 32 feet.

The plane used in the test was complete except for engines, instruments, and other equipment that add about another three million to cost of a completed plane. Actual cost of a B53 never has been announced officially but aviation sources have estimated eight million for an equipped plane.

Benson Admits Error In Ladejinsky Incident

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Benson conceded Tuesday he was wrong in tagging Wolf Ladejinsky a security risk.

Benson testified before a Senate subcommittee which also heard the head of the Veterans Administration (VA) say most of the employees weeded from his agency are risks would have been "fired anyway" for other reasons.

The agriculture secretary said the now celebrated Ladejinsky case gave him some new ideas on security matters which he passed along to President Eisenhower. But he said that to testify as to those ideas would violate a confidence.

Discuss with Aides

Urged by the subcommittee chairman, Sen. Olin Johnson (D-SC), to pass along his tips to the senators, Benson said he'd consider it. First, he said, he wanted to discuss the matter with his legal advisers and White House aides.

After the hearing recessed until Wednesday, Johnston told newsmen Higley's statement bore out the Democrats' contention that nearly all those listed as security risks could have been dismissed under regular civil service procedures "without besmirching anyone's name."

Close Questioning

Subjected to close questioning by subcommittee aides, Benson acknowledged it would have been better all around if the security question had never been raised in connection with Ladejinsky.

He agreed with a statement by Henry Edens, a subcommittee counsel, that the risk tag hung on Ladejinsky had been "gratuitous."

This was so, Benson said, because he had decided Ladejinsky was not qualified for a job as agricultural attache in Tokyo since Ladejinsky was Russian-born and lacked a sufficient American background for the job.

Worked in Tokyo

Ladejinsky had worked for four years as a State Department expert on farm matters in Tokyo, several times winning se-

curity clearance for his sensitive job.

But shortly after the job was transferred to the Agriculture Department last year he was labeled a security risk and denied clearance.

Benson Concedes

Benson conceded this decision was taken without a hearing and without notice to Ladejinsky of the charges against him.

These included allegations that he had been a member of two subversive organizations. Benson said it now appears the evidence on this score is conflicting.

Harold E. Stassen, who hired Ladejinsky for a job in Indochina with the Foreign Operations Administration shortly after the adverse Agriculture Department decision, testified Monday that he was satisfied Ladejinsky was a loyal American.

Higley told investigating senators most of these people "were not fired under 10450"—the executive order under which President Eisenhower set up the administration's security program.

His testimony prompted Paul Hadlick, counsel to a Senate civil service subcommittee examining that program, to comment:

"But someone for political purposes makes them out to be almost espionage agents."

3614 Dismissed

Philip Young, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, told the senators Monday that between May 28, 1953, and last June 30, a total of 3,614 government employes had been dismissed as security risks. Young reported that another 5,969 had resigned at a time when their files contained "unfavorable" security information.

Of the number fired, 449 were VA employes. Hadlick observed that this amounts to one-eighth of the total and asserted the administration is playing "a numbers racket for political purposes."

Today's Staff

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