

Tankers Collide In Fog Killing 15; 36 Hurt

Quick Action On UN Emergency Meet Seen

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (UPI) — Western diplomats predicted the U.N. Security Council would act quickly today to set up an emergency session of the General Assembly on the Middle East beginning Friday. Indications were the session would be on U.S. terms.

The council, summoned by Russia, was scheduled to meet this afternoon.

It had two resolutions to consider, one by the United States and the other by Soviet Russia, both calling for an emergency convocation of the 81-member assembly.

C Of C Seeks Improved Air Service

A variety of topics were reviewed at yesterday's regular meeting of Chamber of Commerce directors.

Chamber President Averitt Hickox reported that the Chamber's request for improved airline service and renewal of La Grande's air service certificate will be mailed this week to Oregon Congressmen, West Coast Airlines and the Civil Aeronautics Board.

John Groupe was appointed chairman of a special committee to develop a welcome for new Eastern Oregon College students.

On recommendation of the National Affairs committee, the board authorized that telegrams be sent Senators Morse and Neuberger, urging that no changes be made in Social Security benefits, taxable wage base, or tax rates, and that no benefits be added until the Advisory Council reports to Congress on the economic soundness of the changes.

The board also approved Chamber support of H.R. 3, designed to curtail Federal preemption of state authority.

The board decided to table plans for a goodwill tour to Walla Walla county, and to table efforts to obtain county zoning to protect La Grande's highway entrances from "eye-sores."

Hickox reported that a drive-up mail box has been ordered for the local post office and that the Chamber will ask the city to provide curb space.

During the meeting, Dick Bradshaw, West Coast Airlines agent here, presented a certificate to Ronald Waite, La Grande high school student, in recognition of his being a finalist in an airline contest which offers a \$6,000 aeronautical engineering scholarship.

Sheriff Reminds Fourth Quarter Taxes Due Aug. 15

H. A. Klinghammer, Union county Sheriff, reminded taxpayers today that August 15 is the final date for fourth quarter payments of all real estate and personal property taxes. After this date interest will be charged on the unpaid balance.

Klinghammer said \$1,578,254.20 in tax monies has been paid to the county treasurer Elizabeth Hungerford to date, which amounts to 90 per cent of the \$1,796,469.89 to be collected.

Elsewhere in Congress today: Goldfine: Rep. August E. Johansen (R-Mich.) accused New England textile millionaire Bernard Goldfine, friend of Presidential Aide Sherman Adams, of trying to "butter up" assistants to congressmen with his "true facts" letters to 400 members of the House.

In the latter, Goldfine urged the legislators not to cite him for contempt as a result of the recent Goldfine-Adams influence inquiry.

Adjournment: House leaders said prospects for early congressional adjournment were looking dimmer. Democratic Leader John W. McCormack (Mass.) said he does not think the House can wind up its work by Aug. 16. Speaker Sam Rayburn said that now seemed likely.

Move Made To End Crisis

LONDON (UPI) — Prime Minister Harold Macmillan made an all-out bid today to end three years of bloodshed on Cyprus and head off the threat of war between Greece and Turkey.

Macmillan was flying to Athens for emergency talks with Greek Premier Constantine Karamanlis on means to halt the costly intercommunal disorders on the strategic island colony in the Mediterranean. About 450 persons have been killed since the underground Eoka launched its anti-British campaign three years ago.

Britain has some 38,000 troops tied down on the island because of the fighting between Cypriots of Turkish and Greek descent.

From Athens, Macmillan may fly on to Ankara for similar talks with Premier Adnan Menderes, with whom he discussed the Cyprus question during the recent Baghdad Pact meeting in London.

U. S. diplomatic troubleshooter Robert Murphy also is scheduled to fly from Cairo to Athens today. Sources in Athens speculated Murphy may take part in the talks which they said could remove "a major obstacle to the Western alliance in this part of the world."

Airlines Cancels Night Flight Due To Lights

At the City Commission meeting last night, a letter was received from A. C. Hickox, president of the La Grande-Union County Chamber of Commerce stating that landing lights at the La Grande Airport have been out for several days, and that the evening flight has been cancelled until the lighting system is reactivated.

He also said, "This condition, no doubt, is unavoidable. However, it is particularly distressing, at this time, in view of our efforts to obtain additional flights and to effect the renewal of our air service permit."

David C. Slaght, city engineer, stated that after testing the lighting system, repair parts were being installed by workmen at the present time.

Mention was made that August 26 is the last day for candidates to file for commissioner in order to be included on the November ballot. Three vacancies, two for four years and one for one year are open for terms starting January, 1959.

Other business included granting of permission to park, not to exceed five, unoccupied trailer houses until May 1, 1959, on a lot owned by Albert True at 1109 V Ave.

Harold Schwabke, new owner of Stockman's lunch, asked for parking space near his place of business. He stated that unloading on the present plan was a hazard to traffic and a handicap to customer parking. This request is to be re-checked by the chief of police.

Another request to hold a Youth Activities Dance on the tennis court at Pioneer Park was approved.

The city engineer's report, No. 1876, for district 238 plans and specifications for Improvement was adopted.

Elgin Jewelry Store Plans Opening Day Fete

ELGIN (Special) — The Wise Jewelry Store will hold a Grand Opening at the new store on Saturday, August 9. Over \$200 in door prizes will be presented to visitors. Coffee will also be served. The store is located on Tollgate highway and Market Road west of Elgin.

Benson's demand for lower price props. But Speaker Sam Rayburn said no new farm legislation would be considered this year.

Debt: The House voted to grant President Eisenhower's request to raise the temporary national debt limit from 200 billion dollars to a record 288 billion dollars and the permanent ceiling from 275 billion to 285 billion. The measure now goes to the Senate where it seemed certain to pass.

Defense: President Eisenhower signed the defense reorganization bill and hailed it as "a major advance in our organization for defense." The signature ended one of the hottest disputes of the current legislative session between Congress and the administration. The final version gave Eisenhower most of the power he wanted to streamline the Defense Department.

Farm: Republican leaders lost a gamble when they engineered defeat of a new farm bill which would have provided some of the price support reductions the President wanted. They pushed for a quick vote on the measure in hope of getting action later on a bill containing even more concessions to Agriculture Secretary Ezra T.



HUMAN TORCH—Frank Kierdorf, Teamster Union official, staggered into a Pontiac, Mich., hospital, with 85 per cent of his body severely burned, after being doused with gasoline and set afire. Kierdorf died today. Here he is shown being questioned by an Asst. Prosecuting Atty., in the hospital. He had refused to give hospital personnel his name, and had to be identified by his fingerprints. (NEA)

Human Torch Dies; Witness Cites Arson

PONTIAC, Mich. (UPI)—Human torch Frank Kierdorf died today at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital on Monday after police produced a witness who saw a Flint arson job on which he was believed to have been burned.

Doctors said Kierdorf's heart apparently stopped beating at 9:25 a.m. p.d.t. but he wasn't pronounced dead until 9:30 a.m.

The 56-year-old ex-convict who was business agent for a Flint Teamsters Union local, had staggered into the hospital early Monday with burns over 85 per cent of his body.

He said he had been turned into a human torch by two unidentified men who "took me for a ride," but police have been breaking down his story piece by piece.

State Attorney General Paul Adams early this morning confirmed that police had in protective custody a witness to the explosive burning of a dry cleaning establishment at Flint.

He also disclosed that Kierdorf's missing uncle, Herman Kierdorf, was a "definite suspect" in the arson job.

Elsie Cauthorn Found Dead In Her Home Today

Mrs. Elsie Cauthorn, 73, who lived at 1907 2nd St. here, was found dead in her home this morning by La Grande Fire Chief Ray Snider and city police officers.

Union County Coroner Norm Daniels, after investigation, reported that Mrs. Cauthorn apparently died of natural causes "sometime in the last two days." He said she had been ill. Her husband, Carter, died early this year.

Snider, who lives next door, said he had not seen Mrs. Cauthorn for two or three days, and knocked on the door this morning to see if she was "all right." After no reply, he contacted city police. They found Mrs. Cauthorn dead.

Union County Welfare department said she was born Dec. 8, 1885 at Sheboygan, Wis.

SHOT REPORTED

City Police said this morning that Mr. and Mrs. James Evers, who live on Foothill Road on the outskirts of La Grande, reported a bullet pierced their home on the South side, probably during the night or early this morning. Police are investigating the incident.

9 Convicts Stage Prison Break

MONROE, Wash. (UPI) — Nine convicts who escaped the Washington state reformatory here Wednesday night after beating two guards into submission were still at large today.

Ernest Timpeni, superintendent of the reformatory, said the nine men, from among the "tougher element" of the institution, made their break when they were returning from their evening exercise period about 8 p.m.

"They overpowered the guards and worked their way through a light well in cell block one," Timpani said. "Once through the light well, they were on the roof where they must have dropped to a lower level, then let themselves down over the walls on bed sheets."

The guards, Robert Fifield and Lester Sain, were treated at the reformatory infirmary and Fifield was taken to the hospital here for observation. Fifield suffered cuts about the face and head and a fractured index finger. Sain was knocked unconscious but suffered only head injuries. Both guards were unharmed.

About three hours after the break-out, Mrs. Dorothy Brain, 27, wife of a reformatory guard, was slugged on the head by one of the escapees who broke into her Arlington home.

Mrs. Brain said her assailant was Elvin Gilroy, 19, of Seattle. Timpani said an automobile stolen in the Monroe area was found abandoned at Snohomish, seven miles from the reformatory. The interior of the car was splattered with blood, indicating one or more of the inmates was injured during their struggle with the guards.

The Graham carried a crew of 12.

Local Red Cross Chapter's Dinner Meet Set Tonight

Raymond E. Vester of Portland is scheduled to present the main address at the annual dinner of The American Red Cross chapter here tonight at 7 p.m. at the Scajawa Hotel. The dinner and meeting is open to the public.

Vester is chairman of the Portland-Multnomah United Fund and will serve this year as the national fund vice-chairman of the Red Cross in Oregon. He is a past chairman of the Portland-Multnomah chapter of the Red Cross and was national fund vice-chairman in 1956.

Ann Johnson Will Chairmen Local Fall Showing

Ann Johnson, of Ann Johnson Ladies Ready-To-Wear, has accepted an appointment as general chairman of the Retail Merchants Association's annual Fall Showing.

RMA President Harold Laurence said plans will be developed later this month for the annual community event. The Showing will probably be scheduled in mid-September, he added.

Wreck Spills Crewmen Into Firey Sea Today

NEWPORT, R. I. (UPI) — Two tankers, one loaded with a million gallons of gasoline, crashed in flames in thick fog today, killing at least 15 men and injuring 36.

At noon (9 a.m. p.d.t.), five hours after the collision, nine bodies were found entombed below decks in the larger of the two ships. Six other men died when they leaped into the fiery sea after the collision off Fort Adams.

Of the injured, 31 were held in hospitals for treatment and five were released. Several of the hospitalized were reported in critical condition from burns.

The ships, the 10,000-ton S. S. Gulfport out of Philadelphia, and the coastal tanker S. S. Graham, collided in a half-mile channel at the entrance to Narragansett Bay. The collision occurred within sight of the still-beached wreckage of the Norwegian freighter Vebteville, which ran aground last September.

The Gulfport skipper, Capt. M. Eden, Port Arthur, Tex., perished with his ship, which later went aground off Fort Adams. Flames and smoke spewed from both vessels five hours after the collision, punctuated by a rocking explosion.

The Graham burned fiercely at the southern tip of Rose Island in Newport Harbor. At one time, the heat was so intense that fireboats could not get near the vessel and it had to be towed off the shore.

The Graham carried a crew of 12.

Solon Urges Perjury Probe Of Hoffa Tale

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Chairman John L. McClellan called today for a Justice Department investigation of possible perjury in Teamster President James R. Hoffa's testimony before the Senate Rackets Committee.

The Arkansas Democrat said conflicts between Hoffa's testimony last fall and the sworn statements of former heavyweight boxer Embree Davidson made necessary an investigation "to determine who perjured himself."

"Definitely, such conflicts could hardly be any misunderstanding," McClellan said.

He also observed that the records appeared to back up the story Davidson gave the committee today.

"Either Davidson perjured himself or Hoffa was not telling the truth when he testified before," McClellan said.

Davidson, billed as a mystery witness, told the committee he drew \$75 a week from the Teamster Welfare Fund while working for union Vice President Owen Bert Brennan, who was his manager.

Committee Counsel Robert F. Kennedy quelled from the transcript of Hoffa's testimony last fall in which the Teamster leader said Davidson got no money from the union.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Thomas Wright of the Newport Naval Base reported that a crew from the Navy oiler Salamone found the nine bodies below decks. He said the vessel still was burning at noon.

Engineer Melvin J. Wroten, aboard the fully-loaded Graham, said "it was like a stick of dynamite. It was awful and it was beautiful and, oh my God, I lived through it."

Wroten was the last to leave the Graham with Capt. Karl Anderson, Chester, Pa. He said the fire flashed along the port side of the ship, then gasoline-fed flames licked to the starboard side where the men were attempting to launch a lifeboat.

"We all ran forward," he said, "and dove into the water. By the time the lifeboat hit, it was all aflame. But most of the men were calm and all but one boy wore lifejackets. I got to him a few minutes after we were in the water."

"Fire was everywhere. I didn't even see the other ship."

Wroten said it was "like watching my home go boom." He said after he was picked up by a coast guard boat, "I sat down on the deck and just shook. There was nothing else to do."

The Gulfport, launched in 1943 at Sparrows Point, Md., and owned by the Gulf Oil Corp., delivered 120,000 barrels of oil Wednesday at Providence and was sailing in ballast for Port Arthur, Tex.

The Graham, owned by the S.E. Graham Transportation Co., Gladwyne, Pa., was also loaded with gasoline.

Capt. Clay T. Evans of the ferry boat Newport, which interrupted its run to Jamestown Island opposite Newport to pick up survivors, said "there was fire all over the water."

"You couldn't see more than 100 feet," he said. "The fog was so bad. The traffic from the rescue boats was terrific. We had to go around the area. There was so much fire but you just couldn't tell how much because of that terrible fog."

First to reach the scene was the Coast Guard cutter Laurel from Castle Hill, R.I. Other cutters from New Bedford and Woods Hole, Mass., joined fire, Navy and Coast Guard cutters from Newport and other nearby bases.

Army helicopters from Otis Air Force Base, Mass., also were summoned.

More than an hour after the collision, the flames were visible from the streets of this fashionable summer resort.

Newport Navy Security Officer Capt. Richard Ashman said a Navy fireman braved the flames and smoke to climb hand over hand up the anchor chain of the Gulfport.

The unidentified fireman crawled onto the deck and grabbed a seaman who was "badly burned from head to foot and in a state of shock."

The smoking hulk of the Gulfport sloshed on to the beach off Fort Adams. Fireboats snuggled around, pouring water on the stricken tanker. The Graham also burned fiercely.



EARLY MORNING CRASH — Three persons were killed when this light plane crashed in a street of Pacoima, Calif., while trying for a landing at nearby Whittman Air Park. One of the victims was identified as James E. Hook.

Rayburn Urges Self-Financing For TVA

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House Rules Committee today, under pressure from Speaker Sam Rayburn, revived a self-financing plan for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The committee Wednesday voted to table the Senate-passed measure which would authorize the power-development agency to finance part of its expansion activities with bond sales rather than congressional appropriations.

Rayburn, who regards the legislation as urgent, communicated his displeasure to the committee which controls all bills going to the House floor. This morning, the committee held a closed-door session and canceled the tabling action to keep the measure alive. But Chairman Howard W. Smith (D-Va.) said no decision was made whether to clear the measure for floor action.

Elsewhere in Congress today:

Goldfine: Rep. August E. Johansen (R-Mich.) accused New England textile millionaire Bernard Goldfine, friend of Presidential Aide Sherman Adams, of trying to "butter up" assistants to congressmen with his "true facts" letters to 400 members of the House.

In the latter, Goldfine urged the legislators not to cite him for contempt as a result of the recent Goldfine-Adams influence inquiry.

Trade: President Eisenhower appeared on the verge of a major victory as the House prepared to vote on a four-year extension of the 25-year-old reciprocal trade program.

Welfare funds: The House passed a bill to force public operation of employee welfare and pension funds after beating down a Republican move to exempt management-run plans. The bill now goes to the Senate which passed a different welfare fund disclosure bill last April.

Farm: Republican leaders lost a gamble when they engineered defeat of a new farm bill which would have provided some of the price support reductions the President wanted. They pushed for a quick vote on the measure in hope of getting action later on a bill containing even more concessions to Agriculture Secretary Ezra T.