

## NATO Alliance Pledges Support To Berlin

### Boy Admits Killing Benefactor's Family

EL CAJON, Calif. (UPI) — A lanky 16-year-old runaway youth tearfully admitted Monday night that he killed the wife and four children of his benefactor because of the children "wouldn't stop screaming." The youth was captured by an off-duty policeman. "I guess I just flipped my lid," 6-foot, 4-inch Carl Eder told police. "I pray that God will take mercy on him," grieving Thomas Pendergast, 39, husband and father of the victims said. "Why did you do it? Why? Why?" Pendergast asked Eder when he confronted Eder, a run-

### Diplomat's Car Stoned In Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (UPI)—American officials today clamped a secrecy ban on the Baghdad movements of Assistant Secretary of State William C. Rountree to forestall mob demonstrations against him. Rountree, touring the Middle East on a fact-finding mission, was whisked to safety unharmed Monday when a mob stoned his windshield. No one was hurt. (Reports reaching other Middle East capitals from Baghdad said an extremely tense situation existed in Iraq and that a Communist attempt to take over the government could be expected at any time.) The attack on Rountree occurred as he was returning from a courtesy call at the Palace of the Sovereignty Council to the U.S. Embassy four miles away. A stone shattered the windshield on the driver's side of the car but did not go through it. Rountree's car also was stoned when he left the airport on his arrival here from Cairo. Demonstrations flared in the Baghdad streets soon afterward with demonstrators shouting "Rountree go home." They also carried placards reading: "Don't soil our land, you courier of conspiracies."

### Bulgarian's Ouster Hinted

MOSCOW (UPI) — The Communist party's Central Committee met today amid Western speculation it was about to oust former Premier Nikolai Bulganin from party ranks. Last spring Bulganin was fired as premier and succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev who is also the Communist party leader. Bulganin has already been removed from the Presidium, or governing body, of the Central Committee. Since then, he has been linked with the "anti-party group" of former Premier Georgi Malenkov and Vyacheslav M. Molotov, former Deputy Premier Lazar Kaganovich and Dmitri Shepilov, former foreign minister. Observers noted that there has been no official announcement that any of the anti-party group had been expelled from the party itself. The Central Committee meeting started Monday. It was highlighted by a bitter blast by Khrushchev at Bulganin and the other anti-party members whom he called "a despicable group of wretched splitters."

### Inquest Set Here In Shaffer Death

On inquest will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Daniels Funeral Home in connection with the death of John Lee Shaffer, 18, La Grande, who died about two hours after being struck on an Elgin street by a car driven by Richard L. Parsons the night of Dec. 4. County Coroner has impeached a six-man jury to consider the evidence in the car-pedestrian accident. Shaffer was walking on the right hand side of the street when he was struck by Parsons' jeep as Parsons was returning home from work about 10 p.m.

### Thor Firing Seems Imminent

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (UPI) — Intensified activity at the country's newest missile range at Vandenberg Air Force Base indicated today that the firing of a 1,500-mile Thor missile was imminent. Firing of the mighty intermediate range ballistic missile will mean that it officially has moved from the test stage into the hands of the military as an operational device ready for use as a weapon. The Thor carries an atomic punch in its warhead. A tense expectancy filled the air in the city which is brimming over and reporters who have rented nearly all available motel and hotel room. The firing by SAC's first missile



REACHING PEAK—La Grande postal employee Bert Burke is shown adding another "mailed early" Christmas package to the pile that is about to be shipped to all parts of the country for delivery before Christmas. The post office here reached a record high for this season yesterday when 1,001 packages were stamped and 22,970 letters were handled through the metering machine. Those figures do not include packages or letters stamped before reaching the post office, Postmaster Victor Eckley reported. Eckley is using eight extra men, along with 24 regular men to handle the seasonal high incoming and outgoing loads. Outgoing peak should be reached this week, and incoming peak next week, Eckley said. He said local people have been very cooperative in bundling letters and mailing early.

### College Building Program Okayed

The State Board of Higher Education today approved a \$4,780,000 building program for student centers and health services on six campuses including an addition to Hoke Hall at Eastern Oregon College. The approval shortly before noon followed a recommendation by a special board's building committee yesterday. Although plans are drawn for a \$180,000 addition to Hoke Hall, the committee meeting in Portland yesterday and today recommended only \$25,000 for immediate future construction. Financing of the dormitory and student center projects at the six colleges will be from student

### Warming Trend Promises Temporary Relief For East

United Press International A warming trend surging out of the plains today promised at least a temporary break in a record December cold wave gripping the East. The warmer weather, boosting readings an average of 10 to 15 degrees in its path, was expected to reach into the East today, although it may arrive too late to prevent damage to Northern Florida's citrus and vegetable crops. Overnight readings again plunged to near two below zero in the Great Lakes region and the Northeast, with below freezing weather ranging southward through the Ohio Valley into the Gulf Coast states. The intense cold in the Southland reached into Northern Florida for the second night, threatening to frost crops in the area. Snow flurries swirled across the Great Lakes region during the night and into parts of the Ohio Valley and New England, with the heaviest snow falling in Western New York.

### GOP Solons Choose Sides

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Senate's 34 Republican members are choosing sides for the hottest leadership fight the Grand Old Party has seen since the 1952 National Convention. Members of a rebellious liberal faction claimed they needed only four votes to insure success for their revolt and grab off the top leadership posts held by conservatives next month. They said they would spend the next two weeks trying to line up more supporters and putting together a slate of candidates. They were reluctant to mention names at this point but Sens. George D. Aiken (R-Vt.) and Thomas H. Kuchel (R-Calif.) figured in speculation. They mapped their strategy at a rump caucus Monday attended by 10 senators while present GOP leaders sat in on a legislative conference at the White House.

### Girl Perishes In Athena Fire

ATHENA, Ore. (UPI)—Eleven-year-old Cathy Ball, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Ball, died early today in a fire that destroyed their home in this northeastern Oregon community. The mother, Mrs. Eunice Ball, managed to save their six-year-old daughter, Connie. Cathy, who had gone to bed in a front room, apparently ran to a rear bedroom and hid under the bed, where her body was found after firemen had managed to cool the area sufficiently to enter. Lawrence Ball was taken to a Pendleton hospital with cuts on his arms suffered, authorities said, when he jumped from a rear window. The fire broke out about 5 a.m. Firemen said its origin had not been determined.

### Reward Posted For Information

PORTLAND (UPI)—A \$500 reward has been offered for information leading to the discovery of the whereabouts of the Kenneth R. Martin family of Portland, missing since Dec. 7. Mrs. H. A. Dorsey of Portland, a sister of Martin, said she and members of her family and friends raised the money to encourage the continuance of the search for Mr. and Mrs. Martin and their three daughters. The organized hunt for the family has been abandoned but friends and relatives were continuing to retrace some of the territory in the hunt area.

### Gas Barge Explodes At Pasco

PASCO, Wash. (UPI)—A barge unloading its cargo of gasoline exploded here this morning, causing a fire which threatened 16 storage tanks before it was brought under control. The barge, City of Longview No. 535, had pumped out most of its cargo of 328,000 gallons but still had about 50,000 gallons aboard when the explosion occurred. The blast rattled windows a mile away and hurled a portion of the superstructure 75 feet. A portion of the barge remained above water and burned fiercely. Flames swept beneath the dock causing about \$25,000 damage to the dock, Pasco Fire Chief Lyle Cooney said. Walter Pirtle, 29, Kennewick, Wash., was hurled into the water but made it to shore and was taken to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital here where his condition was reported as fair. The storage tanks, about 150 feet from the barge fire, were kept drenched to prevent any explosion. Cause of the explosion was not known. Firemen fought the blaze for more than three hours before bringing it under control.

### Junior High Program Set

The annual La Grande Junior High School Christmas program, open free to the public, will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the school gymnasium. The program will feature selections by the school band, orchestra, eighth grade girls' chorus, ninth grade girls' chorus and the ninth grade girls' ensemble. Donald Scott will direct the band, Otto Weigel will handle the orchestra and Betty Faulkner will direct the choruses. A highlight of the evening will be the final performance, when the traditional "living Christmas tree" is formed by the choruses and band members, all singing Christmas carols. The various groups will present nine selections plus the "living Christmas tree" grand finale.

### Rayburn Asked To Back Change

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Liberal Democrats in the House put it squarely up to Speaker Sam Rayburn today to support their proposed change in House rules. Otherwise they said much of the legislation to which the Democratic Party is pledged probably can't be enacted by the 86th Congress. They denied they were in revolt against the House leadership. They pledged their whole-hearted support and admiration for Rayburn and House Democratic Leader John W. McCormack (Mass.). Without the speaker's support, liberal spokesmen said, they haven't a chance to put across the curb they seek on broad existing authority of the conservative House Rules Committee. They said that as a group they probably won't even try unless the speaker gives his assent. However, some individuals among the 100 or so members for whom the group claimed to speak said they will make the pitch anyway, first in the Democratic caucus and then in the House, on opening day of the new Congress. Group leaders, including Rep. Frank Thompson Jr., (N.J.), were drafting messages for Rayburn and McCormack today outlining the liberal contentions and suggesting conferences with the two leaders sometime before Jan. 7, the first day of the session.

### W. Brownton To Speak At Farm Bureau Meet

Wesley Brownton, talking on the "Fundamentals of our democratic, free enterprise way of life," will be the main speaker at the La Grande Farm Bureau Center monthly meeting in Island City Thursday night. A 7:30 p.m. potluck dinner will be held in advance of the meeting, and instrumental music will be presented by La Grande High School students. Santa Claus will also make a visit to give treats to youngsters.

### Rejects Red Repudiation Of Agreements On City

PARIS (UPI)—The North Atlantic allies reaffirmed solemnly today the West's determination to remain in Berlin regardless of Soviet threats. At the same time, they rejected Russia's one-sided repudiation of international agreements on the isolated city. However, they kept the door open for East-West negotiations on Germany as a whole, though not on Berlin alone. They did so in a brief joint declaration pledging the entire 15-nation NATO alliance to support Berlin and reject the Soviet ultimatum to the West to get out. The declaration was drafted by a six-nation group consisting of the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and Canada. It was being approved by the full NATO Council and was expected to be published this evening. Agreement on the broad outlines of the declaration was reached by the NATO Council this morning after Secretary of State John Foster Dulles told the 15-nation group that the Soviets would not risk war over Berlin. Although the declaration indicated the West's willingness to negotiate on Germany with the Soviets, it did not set any date for the talks or propose whether they would be in the form of a summit meeting, a foreign ministers' get-together, or simple diplomatic talks. Authoritative sources said the NATO statement set out the broad outlines of the reply the West plans to send to the Soviet Premier's note of Nov. 27 calling on the western allies to get out of Berlin. The official pact spokesman said Dulles told the council that giving an inch to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in Berlin would be "a beginning that might end in disaster."

### Brush Fire Rages Out Of Control

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. (UPI)—A gigantic brush fire that has blackened nearly 40,000 acres and destroyed 17 homes raged out of control today toward a populated area. About 1,100 firefighters manned lines around the 90-mile perimeter of the blaze. Officials reported the blaze has been about 50 per cent contained but said it was burning out of control along the north and headed toward an area known as Trabuco Canyon. Elmer Osterman, fire coordinator for the State Division of Forestry said the blaze at its closest point was about a mile and a half from homes in the canyon but that they were in no immediate danger. Firemen said depending on weather conditions complete control could not be expected before late today. The huge blaze, the second large brush fire in southern California in two weeks, broke out Sunday and, pushed along by 4-mile-an-hour winds, spread quickly through the tinder-dry canyons and mountains in Cleveland National Forest. Walls of flame 40 and 50 feet high cut a swath through the brush and small tree-covered canyons and steep mountain-sides to San Juan Hot Springs about 10 miles north of this historic mission town and destroyed 17 summer cabins. All residents in the burned area had been evacuated and no injuries have been reported.

### Scientist Kills Student

BERKELEY, Calif. (UPI)—A scientist who befriended and housed a student from Germany killed the University of California junior today because he suspected him of having had a love affair with his wife. John W. Hampton, 31, a Ph.D. research scientist for an oil company, told police he had carefully planned to kill Wolfgang Ludwig Marx, 26. He had resigned from his job effective today. About midnight, Hampton said, he finished his fifth martini of the night, put a .22 caliber pistol in his belt, and went stalking the campus for Marx, who had a room in Hampton's home. After searching in coffee shops and all-night bookstores he found his victim working on an experiment in a third floor physics laboratory in LeConte Hall. A LeConte Hall janitor saw Hampton fleeing after the slaying. A half hour later the scientist returned to the building and was captured in a light-well where he was trying to recover the pistol, thrown there after the shooting.

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