

SPARTAN ADJUSTMENT

Congress Seized With Desire For Cut In Self Spending

By FRANK ELEAZER
United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Our lawmakers have been seized with a desire to save money. They went so far this week as to propose cutting their own spending by \$3,000, though of course it is too early to be sure this will stick.

As a result of the economy fever, it is possible our top diplomats when they move into the state department's new \$54,000,000 building will have to make spartan adjustments, like treading on floors rather than carpets.

Passengers at Washington's 90 million dollar new airport, currently building, could have to walk to their planes, rather than ride in the air conditioned mobile lounges for which we had planned to pay \$2,700,000.

Some Senators, getting into the spirit of things, even expressed interest in the number of maids (8) and gardeners (12) currently needed by President Eisenhower, though nothing concrete came out of that.

Golf Cart Questioned

Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.) did succeed, however, in wringing from the Appropriations Committee a pledge to inquire of Ike whether the taxpayers paid for his \$1,000 mechanized golf cart.

It will be just as well if news of the proposed \$3,000 cut in Congress' own budget doesn't reach Ottawa. Several score of our law-

makers currently are in Canada for the Seaway festivities, and there is no use spoiling the fun.

Our representatives there include 24 official delegates to the first session of a new U.S.-Canadian interparliamentary group, and \$30,000 had been budgeted for their expenses, to cover maybe two meetings a year.

The House Appropriations Committee said sternly though that \$27,000 looked like enough for this purpose, considering it's not far and the plane ride, this year anyway, was far free.

Well, not really free. It's provided by the Navy. The committee said we taxpayers still pick up the tab, totalling \$2,500.

In compliance with earlier committee entreaties to save, the State Department had announced proudly it had cut the cost of its new office building from \$57,400,000 to \$54,220,000.

Diplomats Get News

But the committee had news for the diplomats; the cost has been further reduced by \$2,500,000. It directed the department to save where you can.

Well, it's probably too late to save on those two outside statues, costing \$275,000. And the interior decorator already has been promised his \$170,000, so that can't be cut.

But we haven't yet bought all the rugs, drapes and furniture which the decorator recommend-

ed, so I guess that's where the saving will come.

Possibly something less than \$12,000, as planned, can go into the furnishing of suites for the secretary of state and his first undersecretary. And there'll be a little less than the \$357,000 planned for furnishings for the second undersecretary, the assistant secretaries, and the deputy secretaries of state.

But the \$263,525 budgeted for outfitting the formal dining room, to seat 129, apparently is rock bottom. The diplomats seemed to think they couldn't do it for less.

Hermit Leaves His Park Home To See Police

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—The Hermit of Griffith Park, Dennis Farrell, 32, early today voluntarily left for the first time in six years his 4,200-acre sanctuary "to talk over a problem" with police officers.

Farrell, bearded and in tattered clothing, telephoned police from the vast city-owned park in the middle of Los Angeles and was picked up by a cruiser car and taken to Hollywood station.

But once at the station where a group of photographers and newsmen gathered, Farrell was uncooperative, saying only he wanted to talk with two detectives who had hauled him in for questioning and befriended him last April.

The World War II veteran who abruptly turned his back on civilization six years ago because he was "tired of living" has managed to survive on leavings by park picnickers, forages in garbage cans and what wild fruits and berries he could find in the park's rugged hills.

Youth Charged In Friend's Fatal Shooting

GOLD BEACH (UPI)—John Lopez Durran, 22, McNary, Ariz., late Monday was charged with involuntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting of a companion and was bound over to the Curry county grand jury by Justice of the Peace William Fuller.

Durran was held here in the county jail in lieu of \$2,000 bond. A coroner's inquest Monday afternoon returned a verdict of involuntary manslaughter in the death Sunday of Herbert Eugene Sample, 21, also of McNary.

The jury ruled that Durran was holding a .30-30 rifle when it discharged, killing Sample. The shooting occurred in a cabin on the Sixes river.

Sheriff R. G. Sabin said Durran told him he and Sample were attempting "fast draws" on each other just before the shooting. Sabin said the two came to Oregon looking for work.

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BIG TELESCOPE MIRROR — Officials inspect just-completed 20-inch, magnifying mirror which will now be installed in world's second-largest telescope, at Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton, Calif. Note slight distortion of reflected images, caused by mirror's conclave surface. Grinding the mirror's surface was started in 1953, and has just been finished.

CHARACTER ACTOR WOOS FANS WITH COMMERCIALS

By VERNON SCOTT
UPI Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—A millionaire character actor, who specializes in pounding car fenders for TV commercials, has a Southern California following which tunes in just to hear him give his sales pitch.

He's Dick Lane. Not a familiar name to most of the nation. But his face is as well-known as most stars, thanks to 254 movies.

Lane is a fixture at station KTLA where he advertises everything from used cars to instant coffee—that is until he goofed by describing the coffee as "a blend of the world's finest tobacco."

Additionally, Lane announces wrestling matches, the roller derby and stock car races.

A throwback of the old snake-oil hucksters, Lane overwhelms his viewers with a hoarse-voiced harangue that is more entertaining than many of the shows he works for.

Pounds On Fenders

His favorite gimmick is pounding on the fenders and hoods of automobiles. Not long ago his camera crew rigged the fender of a jalopy and when Dick's fist descended on the car it went right through it.

"I've tried to figure out why people tune in to hear my commercials. I think they're waiting for me to goof. And every once in a while I come through in grand fashion."

Dick has parlayed his talent for mixing entertainment and commercials into a fortune. His salary runs well into the six-figure bracket. He owns a chemical firm and parcels of real estate throughout the Los Angeles area. He lives in a 13-room Beverly Hills mansion and spends the week ends at an elaborate home on Balboa Island.

Oldtimer Lane began as a Broadway song and dance man, later joining the Texas Guinn troupe. While playing straight man for the famed Guinn, Dick became a buddy of Al Capone and his gang.

He turned to movies in 1937, and still works on an occasional film.

"I just finished working in Jerry Lewis' new picture, 'Visit to a Small Planet,' but the additional money only puts me in a higher tax bracket. It's like working for nothing, and I feel I'm putting an actor out of work who needs the job."

"I've had my fling at movies, mostly playing cops and gangsters. I was a real 'B' keeper. Almost all my pictures were low-budget jobs like the 'Boston Blackie' and 'Nick Carter' series.

Right now I wouldn't trade my income with any movie star," Lane concluded. "I could work all the time in movies, but sponsors are standing in line for me to sell their products on TV. It's a lot less work and it brings in much more money."

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