

Volcanic Ashes Blanket Iceland Countryside



REYKJAVIK, Iceland, March 31.—(AP)—Huge clouds of smoke (pictured above) rise from erupting Mount Hekla and the volcanic ashes transformed a large grassing and meadow area of southern Iceland today into a black desert, covering three to four inches deep the surrounding countryside. It was feared that 17 farmsteads some 20 to 30 miles southwest of the 4,764-foot volcano faced devastation. A slight decrease of Mount Hekla's eruption was noted last midnight, but the volcano broke out with new force this morning. The mountain is in eruption for the first time since 1945. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

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\$43 Million Public Welfare Legislation Passes to Senate

By Wendell Webb Managing Editor, The Statesman

Major appropriation bills and the greater part of the proposed \$43,000,000 public welfare program for the next two years emerged battered but still intact from a hectic session of the house late Monday.

The senate, meanwhile, after lengthy but less acrimonious debate, finished final legislative action on bills increasing the state's pari-mutuel take by \$500,000 a biennium; taxing coin-in-the-slot amusement devices by \$250,000 for the same period, and raising circuit court jurors' pay from \$3 to \$5 a day.

Defeated in the senate were measures to acquire a \$50,000 home for the governor (vote 14 to 15), and to expend \$17,500 for statutes of Jason Lee and Dr. John McLoughlin for statutory hall in Washington (vote 15 to 12, but with 16 needed for a constitutionality majority).

Re-referred to senate committee, probably to die, was the house-approved measure to tax timber for research and conservation, but appearing almost simultaneously in the house was a resolution seeking a constitutional amendment allowing bonds up to 1 per cent of the state's valuation (or around \$13,000,000) for a program of reforestation.

Camp White Bill Approved It was veritable Southern Oregon day at the legislature, too, with the house writing final approval (46-10) to state-acquisition of Camp White near Medford for use as a hospital, and the joint ways and means committee voting 9 to 5 favor state acceptance of Klamath marine barracks as a vocational school.

From the senate's assessment committee Monday came the expected do-pass recommendation on the sales tax, already approved by the house. Vote was 6 to 1, with Sen. Howard Belton dissenting. A proposal to lower the tax from 3 to 2 per cent and include foodstuffs is to be considered later. Under the bill, income tax exemptions would be raised if the sales tax becomes law, lowered if it is defeated.

The welfare program which the house sent to the senate would require counties to levy up to 4 1/2 mills on property, or whatever was needed up to that amount for their share of welfare funds; appropriate \$2,000,000 in 1947 or revenue as the state's share; permit the state to recover from gifts or legacies whatever recipients had received in public aid, and void the transfer of property belonging to those on welfare rolls.

Welfare Bill Sent Back Sent back to committee was the fifth public welfare measure prohibiting welfare recipients from transferring their property. It was assailed on constitutional grounds, and Rep. Frank Van Dyke would also ask reconsideration of the bill voiding transfers already in effect, for the same reasons.

The public welfare program contemplates spending about \$10,000,000 more than was made available for the current biennium; the current rate of expenditure of \$34,000,000 for two years.

Proponents of the county tax bill said it was essential to assure \$15,000,000 in federal funds starting July 1. An appropriation of \$2,143,000 to insure federal participation until then was signed by the governor Monday—the deadline set by the federal government to offset court decision that counties do not have to levy, whatever the welfare commission demands.

Rep. Henry Semon estimated needed tax levies to include: Marion county \$344, Polk 2,94, Yamhill 2,76, Linn 1,69.

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Legislature Cost Estimated Cost of the current legislature—now in its 79th day with prospects of reaching 83—was estimated Monday at \$345,000 to date. The previous record, both as to length and expense, was the 1945 session which went 69 days and cost \$232,500.

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President Inks Two Measures

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP)—President Truman today signed "with reluctance" a law extending sugar rationing only until October 31.

He also signed another rush bill passed by congress during the day preserving federal controls over a small group of scarce industrial and drug items until June 30.

Both measures were hustled through senate and house and sent to the White House in a race against the midnight expiration of the second war powers act, basis of the wartime rationing, priority and allocation power.

Truman Kaps Sugar Law The president, evidently more dissatisfied by the short life given sugar rationing than by the curtailment of his own broad executive powers of allocation, issued a sharp statement on the sugar legislation.

October 31 "appears to be too early for the termination of sugar controls," he said. He added that this had been recognized by many congressmen "both in committee and in debate."

The sugar act also extends price control on sugar through October. It otherwise would have expired June 30. The rationing and price control will be administered by the agriculture department instead of the dying OPA.

Ration Is 20 Pounds The bill as signed by Mr. Truman provides that each person shall have a ration of at least 20 pounds of sugar in the next seven months.

Mr. Truman had asked for a year's extension of sugar controls and an equal extension of major sections of the second war powers act. In the latter case, he sought authority to allocate any item in case of a national emergency.

Few Other Items Restricted Instead, congress named these few, at the same time forbidding the allocation of any items not under control on March 24: Tin, antimony, railroad freight cars, the new drug streptomycin, cinchona bark (for quinine), manila and agave cordage and fibre, and tractors built for export.

In addition, the act allows "materials and facilities" essential to meeting international obligations to be allocated if the secretaries of state and commerce certify control is essential.

King for Spain Possible Under Franco Decree

MADRID, March 31.—(AP)—Francisco Franco Y Bahamonde, Spain's revolution-born chief of state, sent a decree to the cortes (parliament) today which, declaring the nation still to be a monarchy, appeared destined to seat another king on the Spanish throne, vacant for the past 16 years.

The bill was introduced in the Franco-dominated cortes on the eve of Spain's "Victory Day," eighth anniversary of the generalissimo's taking up the reins of government following the capitulation of the Spanish republican armies in 1939.

Expelling Franco "chief of state," the bill would give the holder of the post the right to propose his own successor any time he desired and specified that a "council of the kingdom" would advise the chief of state on the succession.

Regency Council Created Designed to provide a governmental head for Spain's 26,000,000 population in the event of the chief of state's death or incapacitation, the decree also provided for a council of regency to rule in the interim. The regency would summon the cortes to elect a successor. The cortes then would have to ratify the council's choice by a two-thirds majority vote.

The chief of state, the decree stipulated, must be a king or, in the event there was no person of royal blood who qualified under the law, a regent. The king, under the decree, would have to be Spanish, a male, at least 30 years of age and a Roman Catholic.

Spain's late king, Alfonso XIII, left Spain in 1931, although he never renounced the throne. He died in exile in 1941.

Don Juan Chief Claimant The council of the kingdom would have to examine the qualifications of candidates for the Spanish throne. The chief claimant would be Don Juan, Alfonso's son and crown prince.

Francisco, whose regime has been castigated by and barred from participation in the United Nations, made a nation-wide, victory day radio address after sending the bill to the cortes and, defending his eight-year regime, declared that the rest of the world had finally joined him in fearing and shunning communism.

The law of succession was the first admission ever made by Franco that the government would be a temporary one and that it might be replaced by another form of rule. However, it did not state the tenure of office of the chief of state and presumably would leave Franco in power for life if he so elected.

British Plan to Exact Payment For Dock Fire

JERUSALEM, March 31.—(AP)—A government representative asserted tonight that Palestine Jews will be made to pay for the damage to the Haifa oil docks where flames still crackled 18 hours after an explosion that set off the worst fire in the port city's history.

An official information officer, who had spent hours in conference with high Palestine government leaders, told a news conference: "For this act of wanton destruction, the community involved will have to pay. This is terrorism pure and simple as we have known it before, but in this case the community is going to have to bear the cost."

As the fires continued to burn, the last of 1,570 Jews taken off the refugee vessel San Filipo were placed on board two deportation ships in Haifa harbor and started on their trip to detention camps on Cyprus.

West Salem Man Buys Dallas Store

DALLAS, March 31 — Glenn Davenport, West Salem, has purchased the Serve-Rite grocery here and started operation. Cleo M. Bevan was the former owner. Davenport, who has lived in West Salem 15 years, is former superintendent of Blue Lake Cannery and recently has been with Kelly-Farguhar Co.

John Howard, also of West Salem, will operate the meat department in the grocery. He has had considerable experience in the business. Maxine and Shirley Davenport, daughters of the new owners, will work in the store.

The family has disposed of its property in West Salem. O. D. Rawlins of Salem handled the sales.

Weather Max. Min. Precip. Salem 57 44 15 Portland 58 45 10 San Francisco 58 45 00 Chicago 53 38 04 New York 51 30 00 Willamette river 2.5 feet. FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Cloudy today and tonight with occasional light rain. Little change in temperature with highest today 55. Lowest tonight 38.

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Stryker

The Oregon Chest, successor to the Oregon War Chest, has successfully "recovered" to peacetime operation. That was apparent at the annual meeting of the chest Monday at the Marion hotel. Not only did the executive director report that collections came within four per cent of the goal, but the spirit of the meeting indicated confidence and enthusiasm on the part of the chest leaders. Representatives were present from widely separated parts of the state, and plans were discussed for conducting campaigns of enlightenment so that all the people may know the work of agencies which the chest supports.

People are quite familiar with the local agencies which are supported by local chests. They are chiefly character-building agencies that develop youth programs to help boys and girls grow up to be useful, honorable citizens. Too few people, however, know the agencies that take care of the neglected, the homeless children, the orphans, the girls who in common phrase have "gotten into trouble." These children or youth have to be cared for. In fact their cases are more urgent than those of children in comfortable, normal homes.

A number of institutions serve the needs of children such as I have described. Some of them are operated by religious bodies; others by boards of trustees who are concerned with child welfare. They receive a certain amount of support from the state, but always this must be supplemented.

One Canby Youth Still Critical After Smashup

CANBY, March 31.—Physician's reports today on the two Canby youths injured when their car left highway 99B and struck a power pole about one-fourth mile south of Canby late Saturday night show that Roy L. Poltratz, 20, driver of the car, is "out of danger," but that his passenger, Ray Price, 19, is still unconscious and in "critical" condition. Both incurred brain concussions, according to the doctor.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Alone at last... I love you, darling."

Ike Gives Challenge As Draft Law Dies

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower said tonight that the end of the draft gives American people "the task of writing the insurance against the chaos of another war."

"From now on," said the army chief of staff in a statement, "we are engaged in a great test, to see whether a system traditionally American in peacetime—the volunteer system—can give us the stable, well-trained regular army our current international commitments require."

Two Propose Bills to Block Phone Strike

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP) Two bills to block any long telephone strike by injunction were introduced in the house today.

One, by Rep. Hartley (R-N.J.), is to be voted on tomorrow by the house labor committee which he heads. It could scarcely be passed by next Monday, the date set by the national federation of telephone workers for a nationwide strike, but it might serve later to halt any long walkout.

A similar measure was introduced by Rep. Hoffman (R-Mich.). His would be permanent, however, while Hartley's is intended as a stop-gap until congress passes permanent legislation and would expire July 31 or when congress adjourns.

While these congressional moves were under way, conciliation director Edgar L. Warren and assistant secretary of Labor John W. Gibson studied the chances for mediating the telephone dispute. Warren said 15 conciliation conferences had been arranged throughout the nation but that negotiations between the companies and the union thus far had produced little progress.

Gas Firm Asks Approval of Loan

PHILADELPHIA, March 31.—(AP)—The Portland Gas & Coke told the government today it needed \$2,500,000 for additional facilities to forestall a breakdown of service next winter.

The company filed an application with the securities and exchange commission asking permission to borrow the funds from three Portland banks. The application said "failure to install additional facilities promptly may result in thousands being without service during periods of only moderately cold weather."

Marshall Protests Demands To Leave Reich 'Slum Area'

MOSCOW, March 31.—(AP)—Secretary of State Marshall blasted at Russia's uncompromising stand on German reparations tonight and warned that the United States opposes "policies which will continue Germany as a congested slum."

In his blunt speech to the council of foreign ministers, Marshall said the four powers could never reach agreements "on the basis of an ultimatum." He added that the United States "categorically rejects" the Russian stand that "acceptance of reparations from current production is an absolute condition of economic unity."

Russian Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov, whose proposals also were attacked by British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, made no concessions on reparations but expressed hope that differences among the four powers could be reconciled.

Bids Opened for Detroit Dam Work

PORTLAND, March 31.—(AP)—Bids were opened today on three federal projects including the construction of dormitories, mess hall, shop utilities at the Detroit dam construction camp.

Army engineers divided the Detroit work into two parts, one of the electrical work only. Low bidder on the construction job was J. C. Strudgson Construction Co., Portland, \$452,228, compared with the government estimate of \$377,453. Low bidder on the electrical part was W. H. Gracie Co., Portland, \$4584 compared with the government estimate of \$5350.

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Plan Advanced For UN Check On Greek Aid

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP)—To meet criticism that the United States is bypassing the United Nations, Sen. Vandenberg (R-Mich.) proposed today to give the U.N. power to halt the American plan to bolster Greece and Turkey against communism.

Under the plan, the U.N. could veto the American aid either by "procedural vote in the security council" or by "a majority vote in the general assembly of the United Nations." Seven of the 11 members of the security council are needed for a "procedural" decision.

In effect, under the Vandenberg proposal, the United States would give up its power to veto any move to halt its Greek-Turkish program.

Testifying before the senate foreign relations committee, Vandenberg also proposed that the president be "directed" to withdraw any or all aid to Greece and Turkey under two additional circumstances: "If requested by any government of Greece or Turkey representing a majority of the people of either such nation," and "if the president finds that the purposes of the act have been substantially accomplished or are incapable of satisfactory accomplishment."

March Weather Above Normal: Bureau Notes

March temperatures ranged consistently above the normal, with 80 degrees registering on the 15th as tops. This is a new early spring high, the U. S. weather bureau at McNary field states in its month-end report.

The normal mean temperature was 49 degrees in comparison with an average expectation of 46.5. The low was 31, recorded both on the first and sixth.

The average maximum temperature was 59.5, compared with a normal 55.6. Average daily minimum was 38.8, compared with an expected 37.5 degrees normal.

Rainfall rates were long, as 5.27 inches received surpassed the 3.02 expected normal. Most rain fell on March 9, when 1.44 inches were recorded. Total precipitation for the first three months of the year was 11.93 inches, which fell short of the 14.06 expectation.

Selective Service Over, But No Immediate Discharge for Marion County Boards in Sight

By Winston H. Taylor Staff Writer, The Statesman The draft boards can't have their discharges yet, even though the selective service act died last midnight, Col. Elmer V. Wooton, state director, told Marion county local board chairmen at their final meeting here Monday. Their remaining task is that of assembling records for storage.

With the end of the draft, Col. Wooton expressed high praise for the many volunteer workers who sent the well-known "greetings" to Oregon men, 73,791 of whom were inducted in the past 6 1/2 years. A total of 150,737 men from this state entered the service, by induction, enlistment and commission.

Of these, 29,341 were listed as still in service last March 1, with 867 released during March. Wooton said a number of men have returned from whom no separation report has been received. County totals for men placed in service and those still in service include: Marion No. 1, 4178 and 291; Marion No. 2, 2652 and 675; Marion No. 3, 2658 and 1196;

Woodburn Boy Dies by Rope

Fourteen-year-old Harold Zurlinden of route 1, Woodburn, committed suicide by hanging himself with a haymow rope in his father's barn Monday evening, Deputy Coroner Virgil T. Golden said after he and Sheriff Denver Young investigated the incident.

The body was found at 5:10 p. m. by the boy's father, W. A. Zurlinden, and was taken to the Ringo chapel at Woodburn.

The father told authorities the boy apparently had been despondent over difficulty in school work.

MAINE RATIFIES TENERE

AUGUSTA, Me., March 31.—(AP) Maine became the first state in the nation today to ratify a joint congressional resolution proposing an amendment to the federal constitution limiting the term of the president to not more than two full four-year terms.

Personnelities of Marion county draft boards will appear in a Statesman story tomorrow, concluding the review of selective service during the past 6 1/2 years.)