

GOVERNOR, TOP AID'S LOST IN CRASH

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IT SEEMS HOME

By Charles A. Sprague

One by one the threads of hope were severed after the news first came Wednesday that the plane was missing in which Governor Snell, Secretary of State Farrell and President of the Senate Cornett were passengers. The longer time elapsed in which no word came the less valid became the old adage, "no news is good news."

In the afternoon came a report of the sighting of plane wreckage on a mountainside, and later the word that it had been identified as that of the plane under search, with the further report that there were no signs of life about the wreckage. The single thin thread of hope that somehow they might have escaped snapped with report that all occupants of the plane were dead.

The news has stunned the whole state. It stands out as the greatest catastrophe affecting high public officials in the history of this or any other state. The multiple tragedy has left the people bewildered and sick at heart. It will alter abruptly the course of current politics.

I shall defer until tomorrow a personal tribute to these men, with all of whom I served in close association for a term in the state's official life. I do want to say something about the sad event which brought them to their deaths.

It is easy to moralize after the event on the risks that attended their flight and the unwisdom of having so many high officials together in one plane. But there were men off for a brief holiday, with confidence in their host as his plane. The distance to be flown was short. The weather reports were satisfactory. Something happened—plane trouble, human error, flying into a cloud bank—and the plane crashed into the mountainside.

Margins of safety in modern living are narrow. The difference of a few seconds or a few feet of time means the difference between life and death. If we are to participate actively in life we must accept some of these hazards. These men were not reckless but the perils of modern aviation closed in on them in one plane. But they were aware, and brought them to disaster. Speculation on how the accident might have been averted is now bootless. All we can do is bow our heads in profound sorrow and share our sincere sympathies with the families of the fallen.

Succession Line To Governorship Well Established

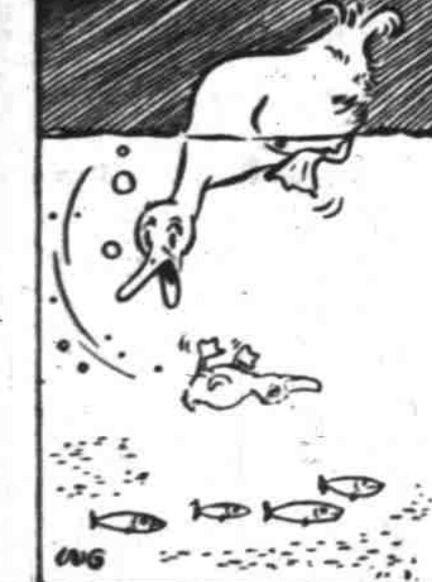
By an amendment to the Oregon constitution adopted by the people in 1946, succession to the governorship now runs to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the secretary of state, the state treasurer in the order named. Prior to this amendment the succession stopped with the two first named. The amendment was passed by the 1946 assembly for submission to the people. It did not change the order of succession, merely added two more officials in line.

Speaker of the House John Hall, who will be Oregon's new governor if plane crash reports are verified, normally would be second in line of succession, coming after Senate President Marshall Cornett who was with Gov. Earl Snell on Tuesday's ill-fated flight in southern Oregon.

Third in line was Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, jr.; also on the flight. State Treasurer Leslie Scott holds the fourth spot.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Wait, dear, you don't quite get the idea."

Laborites Shaken By Vote

LONDON, Thursday, Oct. 30 (AP)—The labor government came within 24 votes of defeat in the house of commons early today in a stormy debate over abolition of the slim gasoline ration now allotted British motorists.

Shouts from the conservative benches of "resign, resign" greeted the vote—the smallest majority which the labor party ever has received on any issue in the house of commons since it swept into power in 1945.

The gasoline rationing debate developed a few hours after eight messengers had carried into the chamber a petition containing more than 1,000,000 signatures protesting a government decision abolishing the basic ration.

The closely contested vote came on a government motion to end debate on the issue. Immediately after the government motion to amend the order by a count of 184 to 160, an opposition motion to amend the order abolishing the gasoline ration was defeated by 187 to 160.

Only a few hours earlier conservative leader Winston Churchill had lost, by a vote of 348-201, his fourth attempt to oust the labor government from office by parliamentary ballot.

Both Parties to Hold Conclaves At Philadelphia

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (AP)—Both democratic and republican national conventions will be held at Philadelphia in 1948.

The democratic national committee unanimously selected that city today as San Francisco "reluctantly withdrew" its bid. The date for the convention was not set—but it probably will be early in July.

Republicans previously had decided to meet there, beginning June 21.

In a spirited session today, the democratic committee installed Senator J. Howard McGrath of Rhode Island as new national chairman and whooped it up for re-election of President Truman in 1948. McGrath succeeds Robert E. Hannegan, who resigned because of ill health.

The committee rejected a resolution bitterly condemning the republican-controlled 80th congress for placing "partisan politics above love of country."

McGrath told reporters he had asked that the resolution be withdrawn because it might jeopardize non-partisan action on emergency legislation at the special session of congress, starting Nov. 17.

"I asked them to tear it up," McGrath said. "That's no way to get cooperation."

Joe Bishop Waives Hearing on That Charge

PORTLAND, Oct. 29 (AP)—Joe Bishop, 27, charged with robbing the Sweet Home and Oakland banks, waived preliminary hearing today on the Oakland charge.

Bond was set at \$15,000. Bishop waived hearing on the Sweet Home charge earlier, after his arrest in Oklahoma.

Lonely Cattleman's Report Leads Air Search to Sector of Officials' Crash

KLAMATH FALLS, Oct. 30 (AP)—The determination of a lonely cattleman camped in remote back country led to air discovery of the airplane which it is feared has carried Governor Earl Snell and other top Oregon officials to their deaths.

Merle Lowden, supervisor of the Fremont national forest, said today it was a report reaching him over remote forest service telephone lines from George Hill that directed the search into the Dog Lake area where the plane wreckage was later sighted from the air.

This is the story as related by Mr. Lowden: Hill, employed by Fred Ross, a stockman, was camped Tuesday night at the south end of Dog Lake.

Oregon's High Executives in Air Tragedy



EARL SNELL, 52, was elected governor of Oregon Nov. 3, 1943 after serving as secretary of state since 1934.

His political career began in 1927 when he first went to the legislature. As member of the house of representatives he served G. H. Sherman, Wheeler and Morrow counties until 1933 when he was chosen speaker of the house.

The son of Oregon pioneers, William and Mattie M. Snell, he was born in Gilliam county, July 11, 1895, and received his public school education in Arlington and Condon, later attending the Oregon Institute of Technology in Portland. Snell was first employed in country newspaper work and has been active in the automobile business and wheat ranching since 1915. He served with the United States army during World War I.

He married Edith Welshons, Condon, in 1920 and they have one son, William Earl Snell.



ROBERT S. FARRELL, JR., 41, was chosen secretary of state Nov. 3, 1942, and was re-elected last year. He was speaker of the house in 1941 after representing Multnomah county in the state legislature at the 1935, 1939 and 1941 sessions.

A native of Portland, he was born October 25, 1906, and was educated in Portland public schools and Hill Military academy. He was graduated from the University of Washington in 1928 and from the Northwestern College of Law in 1930. From 1930 to 1942 he practiced law in Portland.

Farrell was married to Nancy Jane Carpenter, Portland, in 1929 and they have two daughters, Joan, 16, and Sally, 13.

For the past year Farrell has been serving at president of the National Association of Secretaries of State and has been an executive of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.



MARSHALL E. CORNETT, 49, has been state senator representing Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath and Lake counties since 1941. He was chosen president of the senate at the last legislature.

A resident of Klamath Falls since 1926, he was born in Burnside, Ky., Nov. 22, 1898, and educated at Berea (Ky.) college. He married Olive Van Deear Byram, Kake, Alaska, in 1922.

Cornett was employed by the Port Commission in Astoria in 1921 and became connected with a salmon canning firm in Klamath Falls he has entered various business enterprises including distribution of petroleum products, operation of service stations, automobile sales, and radio stations KBKR, KBLM and KSRV of which he has been president.

Cornett served in World War I.

Search Fails To Recover Body of Boy

An all-day search of the Willamette river in the Wheatland ferry area by state police and Marion county deputy sheriffs Wednesday failed to locate the body of Roy Stutz, 16-year-old Newberg youth, who was believed drowned Tuesday about 5 p.m.

Stutz was hunting ducks from a boat with two companions, Walter D. Wright, 31, and Delbert Weber, 19, both of Newberg, when their boat overturned. Wright and Weber made their way to safety at two separate spots along the banks. Wright told Sheriff Denver Young that Stutz was clinging to the overturned boat and called for help, but that he was unable to give aid before they drifted apart.

Officers conducting Wednesday's search said they dragged more than nine miles of the river near the scene before being forced to cease by approaching darkness. The officers also said they would continue their search again today.

Silverton Hospital To Hold Open House

SILVERTON, Oct. 29.—Completion of the new \$45,000 maternity wing of the Silverton hospital will be marked with an open house Sunday, November 2, between the hours of 2 and 4 p. m.

The new addition to the hospital increases the capacity by 10 beds. The maternity section of the hospital has been part of the main part of the hospital but now will occupy the new wing. Mrs. George Steelhammer is chairman of the hospital board.

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
SALEM	55	41	21
Portland	55	44	21
San Francisco	65	57	15
Chicago	56	48	trace
New York	71	62	35

Willamette river 2 1/2 feet.

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Cloudy to partly cloudy today and tonight with occasional light showers. High temperature today 58, low tonight 40.

Governor Would Fill Office of State Secretary

In event a vacancy occurs in the office of secretary of state, the office would be filled by gubernatorial appointment until the next general election, a survey of Oregon law showed Wednesday.

Should there be final confirmation of the deaths of Oregon's three top state officials in Tuesday night's plane crash, the appointment would be made by John Hall of Portland, speaker of the house who would automatically succeed to the governorship.

Present assistant secretary of state is Harry Schenk. Officials said there would be no need of a special election to fill the office of president of the senate or speaker of the house.

Governor's Son Returning Home

SAN DIEGO, Oct. 29 (AP)—Lt. (jg) William E. Snell, navy medical officer and only son of Governor Earl Snell of Oregon, obtained emergency leave from the navy hospital here today and left for the north. Hospital associates said he knew his father was missing but had not heard before his departure that wreckage of the governor's plane had been located.

Woodburn School District Raised to First Class Status

WOODBURN, Oct. 29.—Woodburn school district automatically became the third first class school in Marion county Tuesday when the 1947 school census was completed, Frank Proctor, clerk, announced. One thousand persons between the ages of 4 and 20 are required to qualify as a first class district and Woodburn district counted 1082, 501 girls and 581 boys. The 1946 census totaled 974 following the consolidation of several districts with Woodburn last spring. Salem and Silverton are other first class districts in Marion county.

Board membership will remain as it is until the next school election, June 21, 1948, when two additional members will be added to the present three member board. Dean Bishoprick is chairman of the board and other members are W. Earl Dunn and Roy Kuns.

North Santiam Highway Closed Over Week-End

DETROIT, Oct. 29.—(Special)—The construction area of the North Santiam highway between Niagara will be closed from 5 p. m. Friday to 7 a. m. Monday, it was announced today. Construction operations will necessitate the closure.

STATEHOUSE OPEN TODAY

Business will go forward as usual in state offices today, despite the southern Oregon plane crash which apparently carried three top Oregon officials to their deaths, it was indicated last night.

Snell, Farrell, Cornett on Stricken Plane; Wreckage Found with 'No Sign of Life'

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Oct. 29.—(AP)—The shattered wreckage of a plane carrying Oregon's governor, secretary of state, state senate president, and their pilot was sighted today "so damaged that no one could be alive."

The crashed private plane was seen from the air, but a wall of darkness and rain prevented a definite ground check of the fate of Oregon's leaders. Radio communications said tonight that searchers had criss-crossed the rugged, heavily timbered area three times without finding the wreckage, concealed by pounding rain and darkness.

The red-trimmed plane, which left here last night when the state officials started a southern Oregon hunting outing, crashed at the top of a hill, three miles west of Dog Lake in the rough, timbered lower Barnes valley.

Private pilots from Lakeview, Ore., sighted the wreckage—wings bent at a 90-degree angle from normal, trees snapped off, a swath cut through the hillside—late this afternoon. Flying at tree-top height, they read the private plane's license number, and reported "no sign of life. The plane is damaged so badly that no one could be alive."

Key Officials Aboard

Aboard the craft were Oregon's key state officials—Governor Earl Snell, 52; State Senate President Marshall Cornett, 49, next in line of succession to the governorship; Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, jr., 41, and Cliff Hogue, 42, Klamath Falls pilot.

Oscar Kittredge, owner of the Warner valley ranch to which the governor's party was headed for a day's hunting, and co-owner of the lost plane with Cornett, said the information he received indicated the wreckage was indeed the governor's craft.

The death of Governor Snell and his normal successor, Senate President Cornett, would give the governorship to the speaker of the state house of representatives—John H. Hall, a Portland attorney. Like all Oregon's key officials, Hall is a republican.

The nearest town to the crash scene was Bly, 22 miles to the north. Employees of the Fremont national forest, working within a few miles of the wreckage, were dispatched through the roadless, rugged region toward the site.

Cornett served in World War I.

Area Near-Impassable

The terrain, drenched with rain and some snow, was so near-impassable that one forest crew which left at 6 p. m. had left a logging road only a mile and a half or two from the reported crash scene still had not returned to its roadside radio three hours later. Another crew was working into the area from the other side.

The state, tensely awaiting news of its chief officials, was flooded with reports. A statement by Oregon's Adjutant General Raymond F. Olson at 6:52 p. m. that the men had all been found dead proved to have stemmed from a radio "ham's" message.

But little hope was held out by the private pilots who had seen the shattered wreckage. A forestry crew hiked into the region earlier this afternoon, only to find itself off the track, and returned for a new try. An ambulance and truck added extra chains, and started toward the region.

The crash site is southeast of here, between Klamath Falls and Lakeview.

Weather Hinders Hunt

The same heavy rain and clouds, which all through the day prevented a small armada of rescue planes from four states from launching a hunt, battled the searchers tonight.

Only a brief break in the low ceiling enabled the wreckage to be sighted at all. Two private Lakeview pilots—lumberman Robert Adams and airport mechanic Greg Painter—took off when the sun emerged momentarily late this afternoon. They saw the wreckage near Dog Lake. Other pilots confirmed it.

The governor's party took off from Klamath Falls about 10 o'clock last night for the Oscar Kittredge ranch in Warner valley—an hour's hop—for a morning of

John Hall, Speaker of House, In Line for Highest State Post

John Hubert Hall, 48-year-old Portland attorney who was chosen speaker of the house at the last state legislature, will become Oregon's new governor if, as appeared probable early today, a southern Oregon plane tragedy had cost the lives of three top-flight Oregon officials.

Hall was representative of the Fifth district, Multnomah county, at the 1933, 1939, 1943, 1945 and 1947 sessions of the legislature.

A native Oregonian, Hall was born in Portland, February 7, 1899. He was graduated from Oregon State college in 1923 and received his LLB from Northwestern College of Law in 1926 when he was admitted to the Oregon bar. As a law student he worked as deputy sheriff and deputy county clerk and upon graduation entered practice with his father, John H. Hall, sr., who was United States district attorney under Presidents McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt.

Hall served with the navy during World War I. As a Portland attorney he has been in practice with former Gov. Jay Boyerman.

Hall is married and has three children. His affiliations include Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Masons, Eagles and the Multnomah Anglers' and Hunters' club.

The Who's Who in the 1947 Legislature, published by the Oregon Voter, described Hall as "shrewd, resourceful, a hard fighter."

State officials said Wednesday night that Hall's succession would be automatic, in event the death of Gov. Earl Snell and Senate President Marshall Cornett were confirmed, and that state business could proceed regularly even prior to formal swearing-in proceedings.



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Board Opens Fight on Racial Discrimination

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (AP)—President Truman's committee of civil rights today recommended that congress and the state legislatures outlaw segregation and discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin—and do it "now."

In a sweeping review of the whole U.S. civil rights field, the committee made 35 specific recommendations on issues which have embroiled congress in some of its bitterest struggles.

Discrimination against negroes in the south was criticized as length.

President Truman hailed the report with a statement saying he hopes the committee has given the country "as broad a document" as the declaration of independence.

"An American charter of human freedom in our time."

The 15-member committee, headed by President Charles E. Wilson of the General Electric Co., issued a 178-page report urging among other things:

1. Enactment of federal anti-lynching, anti-poll tax and fair employment practice laws.
2. Federal and state laws to prevent racial or religious segregation and discrimination in such places as trains, buses, schools, theaters, hotels and restaurants.
3. State laws barring restrictive in which property owners bind themselves not to sell or lease to "undesirables."

Left Salem Tuesday

Mrs. Cornett reported the party had left last night. Immediately, Oregon and surrounding states began massing planes for a hunt.

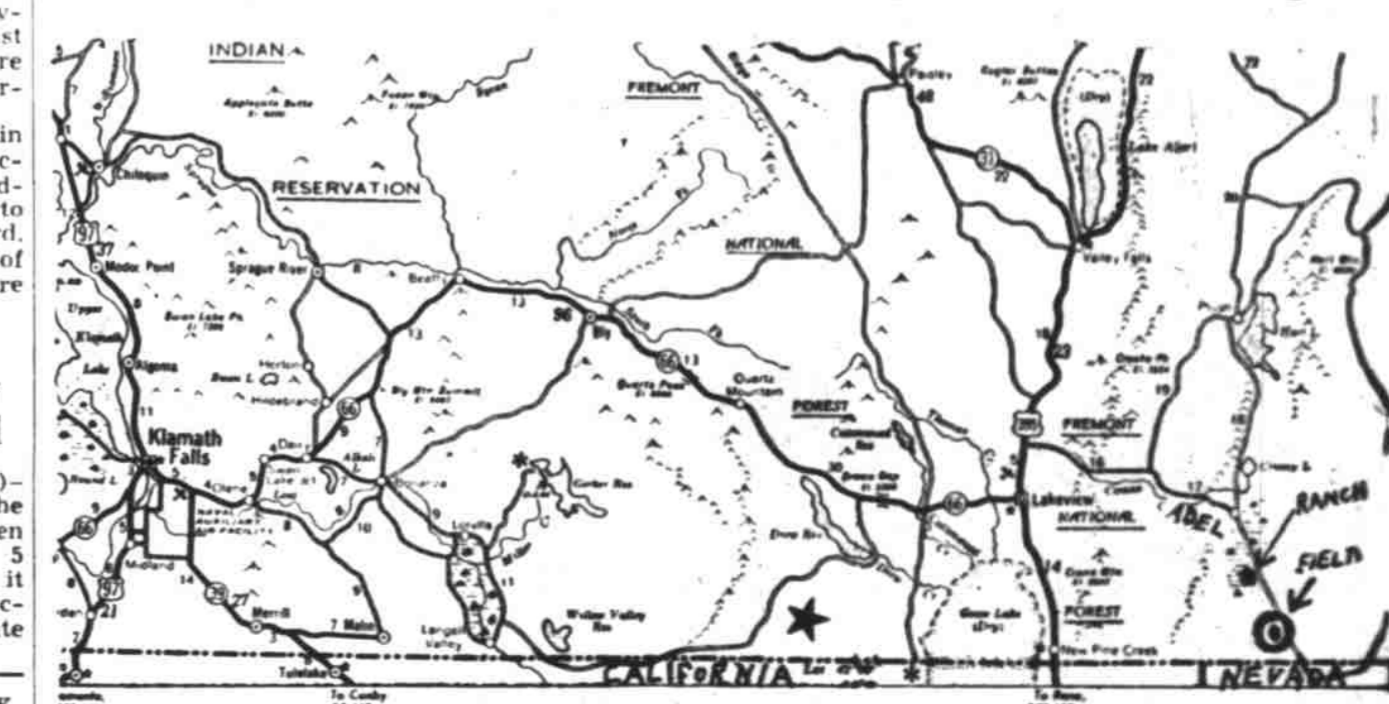
The ill-fated plane—a red-trimmed Bonanza Beechcraft owned jointly by Cornett and Kittredge—left Salem yesterday, planning a direct flight to the Kittredge ranch. But soupy weather halted the party here, they dined at the Cornett home, and toward evening, the weather was reported better. They took off and have not been heard from since.

Globe-Circlers to Land at Seattle

SEATTLE, Oct. 29 (AP)—Two American pilots circling the world in tiny Cub planes will land at Boeing field here from Alaska on their first return stop in the United States, a flying service owner was notified today.

The two former army fliers, George Truman, 39, Los Angeles, and Clifford Evans, 26, Washington, D.C., were resting at Shemya in the outer Aleutians today after arriving from Japan late yesterday on a daring North Pacific hop.

Plane Crashes Near Halfway Point of Trip



Scene of the plane crash in which Gov. Snell and his party are missing was identified last night by the national guard as three miles west of Dog Lake, on Dog Lake Mountain in Lake county. This would place the scene at lower center of above map (marked with star) at a location approximately seven miles south of the north tip of Drew's reservoir at highway 66 west of Lakeview. The landing field for the party was headed in State Sen. Marshall Cornett's plane is marked by arrow at lower right of map, as is the Kittredge ranch where the party was to visit on a hunting expedition.