

With Watson at the Legislature

Hearings on 'Fair Practices' Bill to Provide Entertainment

By Ralph Watson

The first big show to be staged by the legislature for the entertainment of the gallery is scheduled for Tuesday night, commencing at 8 p. m. in the hall of representatives. It is supposed to be a meeting of the senate committee on labor and industries in the guise of a "public hearing" on Senate Bill 8, the biennial "fair practices" act.

Of course the senate committee does not need the public hearing in order to prime its members on how to vote on the bill before it. They already have done this.



Ralph Watson

The bill is firmly fixed in their minds, no doubt. But the long list of sponsors whose names are on the measure undoubtedly will be prompt to embrace the opportunity to address the assembled galleries, orating side by side with the im-

ported talent from Portland and way stations along the route. Accordingly the occasion has high promise of a big night, and the admission is free.

During the past week the committees were busy stoking the furnace and as a consequence the house will have 19 bills and a house concurrent resolution on the calendar Monday morning for final consideration, while the slower moving senate will have six bills up for passage. The house bills have to do with a lot of more or less minor amendments to the mechanics of handling tax matters, the senate bills also are minor in character. One SB 48 by Hilton, would boost the homestead exemption by about \$90 per cent.

Oratory Due in House

The house resolution promises oratory, for it provides for appointment of an interim committee to check into the housing situation and report back to the legislature. The same subject coming on in the senate Friday last brought first blood of the session in the upper house, when Senator Neuberger tangled with Senators Lynch and Hilton in a debate which brought the "party line" cleavage in the senate into the foreground.

It will be interesting to see whether the ferment will have infected the members of the house. Deputy Attorney General Rex Kimmell is writing a bill at the request of Senator Elmo Smith which would add the act of inspecting back bars and other places and seeing that the beer halls and taverns of the state generally are kept in ship shape condition and orderly operation to their other side chore of keeping fish and game violators in the straight and narrow. The purpose of the bill, in brief, is to make the state police department the law enforcement machine for the state liquor commission. The bill is in course of preparation.

Another bill up for final consideration would add provisions for the family car. It sets up provision for identification plates to be issued by the secretary of state, making it easier to run down stolen cars.

New Bills in Offing

A lot of new bills are reported to be in the offing, some of which will cause still more heat before they finally are passed or killed. One provides that the "Registrar of Elections" in Multnomah county shall be elected, instead of appointed by the county commission. The bill establishing the position, passed in 1947, caused an awful row on the democratic side, it being charged that it was a shrewd move of the republicans organization to "take over" the election machinery. Now, with Multnomah county having a democratic majority ranging close to 11,000, the democratic wing in the senate has conceded it is time to elect the man to run the election machinery.

"Anti-daylight Saving" Bill

Too, there is an "anti-daylight saving" bill in the offing, which would make it against the public policy of the sovereign state for any city to go for daylight saving when the rest of the state was getting up by the sun.

But why ramble on, when the bills are popping up on every side like dandelions in the front lawn in the dreamy days of April. (The house of representatives will convene at 10:30 a. m. tomorrow and the senate at 11.)

U. S. SHIPS AT KOREA

SEOUL, Sunday, Jan. 22 (AP)—The U. S. cruiser Astoria and the destroyers Keys and Shelton arrived today at the nearby port of Inchon (Jinsen) for a two-day good will visit. The ships came here from Yokosuka, Japan.

Geysers of Steam Result from Burst Pipe in New York

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (AP)—Geysers of steam shot through manhole covers on Broadway near Times Square today after a water main broke.

Pedestrian and vehicular traffic from 36th street to 40th street was closed for three hours after city officials said the situation was "dangerous" and warned of the possibility of "a terrific underground explosion."

The flow of water and steam in the underground pipes was shut off and pedestrian traffic was resumed but it was understood the street would be closed to vehicles for several days.

The columns of steam which escaped through the manhole covers resulted when the water from the broken main came in contact with steam pipes.

Ski-Plane Lifts 11 Men from Canadian Ice

CHURCHILL, Man., Jan. 22 (AP)—All 11 men aboard a Dakota transport forced down yesterday on a Hudson Bay ice field were removed today by a ski-equipped RCAF plane.

The ski-plane made two trips to the ice fields, about 70 miles from the RCAF base here, to remove the men. The first four were removed shortly after noon and the remaining seven later this afternoon.

At the time it was forced down, the Dakota was returning from a mercy flight to Arctic Bay, on Baffin island, 400 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

The Dakota took off Monday to pick up Harold Dunn, Canadian department of transport radio operator, stricken with a stomach ailment, and an Eskimo named Akoolimak, also ailing. Both were brought here on the first flight of the RCAF Norseman rescue plane.

On its return flight from Arctic Bay the transport got off its course, ran out of gas, and made a forced landing on the ice.

Scandinavian Defense Treaty Aim of Meeting

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Jan. 22 (AP)—A Scandinavian defense alliance is expected to result from talks here by leaders of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, a Danish delegate said tonight.

Thirty-three top political leaders, including premiers of the three countries, met in Christianborg castle to discuss a common defense system. Outside, communists marched and picketed, bearing banners with such slogans as "no Scandinavian war bloc" and "we won't pay for our freedom with dollars."

"It is a simple necessity that the three Scandinavian countries stick closely together," the Danish spokesman said, "and it would be a disaster if it came to a split now."

Blast on Ex-Army Proving Ground Kills Four Persons

HOPE, Ark., Jan. 22 (AP)—Explosion of a shell from a former army proving ground today killed four persons operating a private salvage enterprise.

Three others were injured seriously. State police said the dead and injured had been removing unexploded shells from a restricted area of the southwestern proving ground reservation, pulling out the powder and selling the cartridges to scrap metal.

The dead were identified as: Herbert Worthey, 31; Felton Hartsfield, 28; Mrs. Jean Worthey, 16; and Mary Emma Worthey, 12, the latter two sisters of Herbert Worthey.

Officials to Ask U.S. Buy Part of Foreign Output Vital Materials

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (AP)—High officials, it was learned today, are prepared to recommend that this country promote industrial development abroad by offering long-term agreements to buy part of the foreign output of vital materials.

Subject to congressional approval, this stockpile-building measure is suggested to go along with President Truman's "bold new program" of overseas development of backward areas.

The president's inaugural address Thursday spoke of "guarantees" to help "foster capital investment in areas needing development." He has not elaborated, yet. Congressional leaders expect to get more information when they meet with Mr. Truman Monday.

Without knowing exactly what Mr. Truman wants, Speaker Rayburn (D-Tex.) predicted today the house will pass any legislation needed.

The proposal now being discussed would authorize a government agency, perhaps the treasury's bureau of federal supply, to sign long-term commitments for the purchase of certain amounts of needed materials each year, for stockpiling or for resale to industry.

The buying agreements would contain "escalator" clauses, under which the price would rise in case of unavoidable increases in costs of production.

This, it is felt, might eliminate a major obstacle to foreign investment in the chemical and other industries, after risking millions to start a foreign project, might lose its government contracts in a year or so.

Marshall plan administrator Paul G. Hoffman is known to be among those favoring such a plan. His agency, the economic cooperation administration, has limited funds and authority to help in the launching of overseas projects which will return strategic materials to this country.

U.S. Flier Dies; Plane Downed By Greek Reds

ATHENS, Jan. 22 (AP)—Col. Selden R. Edner of San Jose, Calif., an American air observer, and his Greek pilot have been shot down by communist-led guerrillas and both are believed to have been killed.

The Greek air staff and the U. S. embassy announced the incident today.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said the guerrillas reported the American was found dead plane Friday and they are protesting in the plane Friday and they are protesting to the security council that he took part in a strafing-bombing mission).

U. S. Ambassador Henry F. Grady said Edner was making an unarmored observation flight over the Karpenisi battle area north of Athens when the plane crashed in hilly country. Grady notified Mrs. Edner, who lies in Athens.

Fire Threatens Arkansas City

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Jan. 22 (AP)—A spectacular fire tonight gutted a three-story building on Main street and for a time threatened a major block in the downtown business section.

At 10 p. m. (CST), nearly three hours after the blaze broke out, firemen appeared to have the situation in hand.

The cause of the fire was not determined. A heavy property loss had been feared.

Odom Lays New Plans for Flight

WICHITA, Kas., Jan. 22 (AP)—William Odom came back to Wichita Friday—to start all over on plans for a 5,000-mile non-stop light plane flight.

Balked by weather, he landed at Oakland, Calif., last week in his try for a non-stop hop from Honolulu to New York.

There'll "definitely be another flight," he said today—but the takeoff point and time will be decided in conference with officials of Beech Aircraft corp., flight sponsors.

Collision on Foggy Seas Made Radio History Forty Years Ago

By George Tucker
AP Newsfeatures Writer

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (AP)—Forty years ago tomorrow the White Star liner Republic and the Italian steamer Florida collided in the fog off Nantucket island and made radio history.

The incident demonstrated the importance of wireless telegraphy as a means of saving life at sea.

The nation was so amazed by the event that the house of representatives passed legislation making wireless sets and operators mandatory for every ship carrying 50 or more passengers.

Sent Warnings

The drama began when Jack Binns, a young wireless operator aboard the Republic, broke off "chatting" with coast stations and flung a sudden "C.Q.D." over the foggy waters. It meant "all ships—danger," and was the forerunner of the SOS signal used today.

The time was 5:30 a. m., Saturday, Jan. 23, 1906.

The Republic, a luxury liner and flagship of the White Star fleet, was outbound for the Mediterranean with 461 passengers and supplies for the U. S. battleship fleet.

At the moment of collision many of the passengers were in their berths. Capt. William L. Sealby was on the bridge. Fog lay everywhere.

Republic Rammied

Suddenly there came a dozen quick blasts on a fog siren. A hazy shape loomed through the mist bore down on the Republic.

This was the Florida. Her sharp prow knifed into the Republic's iron plates on the port side, cutting through to the engine rooms.

There was a moment of shocked silence. Then the Republic righted herself and staggered off into the fog.

Young Binns swaying with the lurching vessel, began to spray the fog with cries for help.

"5:40 a. m. Rammied by unknown ship 26 miles southeast of Nantucket. Latitude 40.17. Longitude 70."

No fewer than 10 ships, hearing the signal, turned in their tracks and made for the stricken ship.

Relayed Message

Jack Irwin, an Associated Press correspondent and also a wireless operator, caught from the air the first faint signal of distress Binns sent sweeping over the water. He flashed the news to the Associated Press wires and then to ships at sea everywhere.

As dawn broke over the miserable sea the Florida, her forward hold filled with sea water, crept close and took aboard the Republic's passengers. But her condition was so precarious that the Republic's and her own passengers had

2 Die, 13 Injured as New Jersey Bus Hits Car

BERLIN, N. J., Jan. 22 (AP)—A seashore-bound bus collided head-on with a car on the White Horse pike tonight killing a man and his wife and injuring 13 others, including two children of the dead couple.

Eleven of the injured were passengers of a public service bus traveling from Philadelphia to Beach Haven, N. J.

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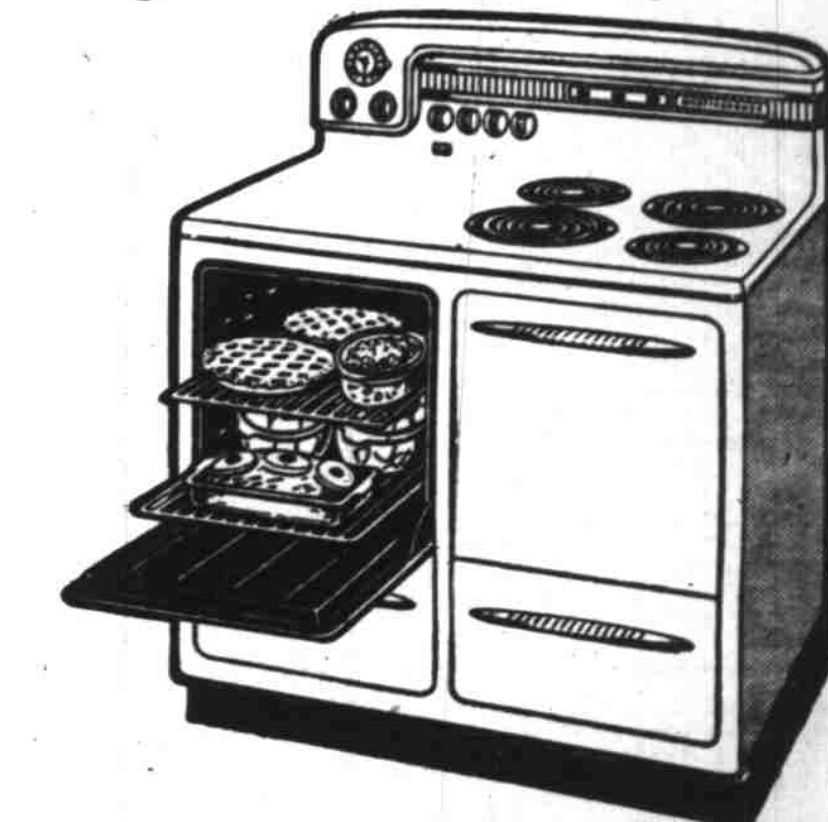
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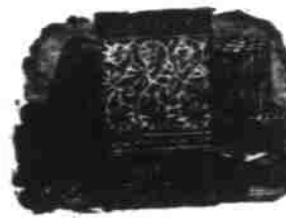
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