

Potato Price Freeze For Present Levels Sought; Seen Near

WASHINGTON (AP)—A proposal that white potato prices be frozen at their present levels was made to the Office of Price Stabilization Thursday by a Western group which included several members of Congress.



By Charles A. Sorenson

The announcement of President Truman of a plan for reorganizing the Internal Revenue Bureau may be his answer to the criticism of scandals in his Administration. Since Justice Thomas F. Murphy bowed out of the scene as the man with broom and shovel in Washington clean-up no work has come of a special commission or a special attorney to do the job. The President may just let that idea wash out and substitute this form of direct action.

One must admit that his program for the Internal Revenue Bureau is sweeping. All 64 offices of collectors of internal revenue are to be wiped out and replaced by 25 district offices with assistant commissioners in charge who will be under civil service. The President will be the commissioner. An inspection service will operate independent of the bureau.

The plan will be submitted to Congress under the general law for reorganizing of administrative departments. Unless the House or Senate negatives the proposal in 60 days it will go into effect. There may be some grumbling among members of Congress because the collectorships have always been matters of political patronage which they will hate to lose. Such is the stir for reform of the Internal Revenue Bureau however, it is doubtful if either House of Congress will have nerve to reject the President's plan.

While this reorganization will take much of the heat off this arm of government congressional investigating committees may turn their bloodhounds on other agencies. Considered ripe fields.

(Continued on Editorial Page)

British Tug To Aid Captain In Sea Battle

LONDON (AP)—The British tug Turmoil reached the side of the helpless Flying Enterprise in the night Thursday, but darkness and the ship's lurching delayed at least until dawn the fastening of the tow lines that will help Capt. Kurt Carlsen win his lone battle against the Atlantic.

At daylight, the tug will try to fasten the lines, the tug's master reported to London.

Three times the Turmoil fired lines to Carlsen, who has been clinging to the deck of the Flying Enterprise for six days and six nights since she was crippled by an Atlantic storm. And three times Carlsen, clinging to support with one hand and trying to catch the line with the other, failed because of the 60-degree list and the lurching of the freighter.

Eyewitnesses reported that the freighter, though listing badly and down slightly at the head, was riding steadily in the sharply rolling waters about 300 miles off West England's southern tip.

The U. S. destroyer Weeks reported the 37-year-old Carlsen, who had refused to leave his ship and its rich 2,650-ton general cargo, was "very cheerful and grateful" for offers of help but determined to remain aboard until the vessel reaches port.

That port will be Falmouth, Eng. if good weather prevails.

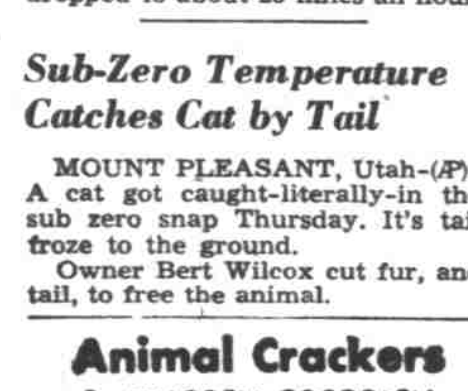
Navy information was that the Atlantic in the area was moderating at midnight and the wind had dropped to about 25 miles an hour.

Sub-Zero Temperature Catches Cat by Tail

MOUNT PLEASANT, Utah (AP)—A cat got caught literally in the sub zero snap Thursday. It's tail froze to the ground.

Owner Bert Wilcox cut fur, and tail, to free the animal.

Animal Crackers By WARREN GOODRICH



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"Are you sure you put the cat out?"

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Snow Puts Pedestrians, Drivers on Guard



Thursday morning's brief snowstorm made downtown Salem sidewalks as hazardous for pedestrians as the streets were for motorists. Here a group cautiously crosses State Street at Liberty amidst swirling flakes of snow. Only minor accidents were reported as both pedestrians and motorists exercised caution. (Statesman photo.) (Photos also on page 7.)

Rain Erases Winter's Heaviest Snow; Three Deaths Blamed on Weather

Steelmen May Comply With No Strike Bid

ATLANTIC CITY (AP)—President Truman asked the CIO Steelworkers Union, was read to a specially-summoned union convention empowered to act on strike plans.

Murray was reported ready to recommend that the nearly 3,000 delegates erase the walkout threat. It was considered certain the convention would follow Murray's wish, at least until the Wage Stabilization Board suggests a compromise solution to the union's unsettled wage demands.

Murray's recommendation on what course the union should take, and the convention action on that recommendation, was put over until Friday's final session.

Critique Industry

For more than three hours convention delegates, one after another, arose to criticize sharply industry bargaining tactics.

Individual delegates gaining the floor said they were willing to "hit the bricks," or strike, but felt it would be best to avoid a walk-out now as Mr. Truman has asked and see what the WSB decides.

Salmon Creek Timber Sold to Hines Company

PORTLAND (AP)—The Edward Hines Lumber Company has bought 28,320,000 board feet of timber in the Salmon Creek working circle of the Willamette National Forest.

The regional forester said Thursday that most of the timber was Douglas fir priced at \$24 a thousand. The appraised value was \$17.80.

Gambling Tax Collects Trickle; Flood of Money Still to Arrive

By The Associated Press

The new tax on gambling is sending a trickle of cash into the U. S. Treasury but it is too early to say whether the trickle will swell to a big flow.

An Associated Press survey disclosed Thursday that the government has taken in more than \$265,000, but most of the registered betting parlors are still to be heard from, not to speak of the unregistered ones.

The \$265,000 figure is based on incomplete reports from about half the 48 states. Since the levy is 10 per cent, the \$265,000 represents about \$2,650,000 in bets made on horse races, punchboards and other gambles since the law went into effect Nov. 1.

It's a good bet, however, that the figure is a drop in the bucket compared to what has been wagered around the country in the last 60 days.

Many gamblers are reported to have gone deeper underground, for

Highclimber Dies High on Spar Tree

COTTAGE GROVE (AP)—A 62-year-old logger died 75 feet above the ground near here Wednesday while topping a spar tree. He was John Oscar Hay of Portland, employed on the Elmo Albridge logging operation.

Albridge saw Hay slump back in his safety belt. Coroner Fred Buehl said Hay died of a heart attack or a brain hemorrhage.

Crash Injuries Fatal to Woman

McMINNVILLE (AP)—A woman school teacher died in a hospital here Wednesday night of injuries suffered in an automobile crash near Sheridan Dec. 21.

The victim was Pearl I. Snow, 46, Langlois, Ore., whose husband, Kellogg, 63, is recovering from injuries suffered in the crash of their car with one driven by Sheridan Wilford Lanterman, 27, Rugland.

Nine Rescued From Drifts

Nine persons were rescued from a snow-packed shelter house on Wolf Creek Pass after Colorado State Highway crews battled through a new, heavy snowstorm late Thursday on foot.

The nine persons, including two children, had been locked by snow in the shelter house on the west side of the pass since Sunday.

The new storm and record breaking sub-zero temperatures hampered the rescue operations and stalled highway crews.

Rain, on the heels of rising temperatures, washed away Salem's heaviest snowfall of the winter Thursday night, but elsewhere the Northwest was plagued by snow and ice.

Officially Salem's snow amounted to 6.6 of an inch but depths ranged from a half to several inches from a storm which started early Thursday. Rising temperatures and a heavy downpour, which brought the precipitation total to .61 of an inch by 10:30 p.m., had completely erased the snow on the level.

Snow continued to fall in surrounding areas, especially at higher elevations, but rain is expected over most of the Northwest by the week end.

More Rain Expected

Salem forecast calls for warmer temperatures and rain or mixed snow and rain today.

More than an inch of snow was reported in Keizer and more in hill areas immediately surrounding Salem.

On the outskirts of Dallas the temperature dropped to 14 degrees early Thursday on the official thermometer at the Polk-Benton Forestry station. It was still snowing hard there at 5 p.m. with four inches on the ground.

Biggest snow depth reported in Polk County was "over four feet" at Riley Peak, some two miles northwest of Vale.

Snow in Santiam Area

In the Santiam canyon it snowed all afternoon in the Mehama-Elkhorn area and residents described the road up the Little North Fork as "a sheet of ice" with chains or equivalent definitely needed. Schools and school buses were operating in the area despite several inches of snow on the ground.

Detroit Ranger Station reported four inches of new snow, falling off and on since 11 a. m. Thursday. At 9 p. m., rangers there said "it looks like it has set in for a night of steady snowing." Temperature at the station then was 29.

Snow continued to fall much of the night in the Portland area and in Washington the weather was bleak for at least three traffic deaths.

Seneca State's Cold Spot

Jack Fabrican, 26, Seattle, was thrown from his moving automobile near Bellingham, Wash. Police reported he was attempting to remove snow from the windshield when the car skidded, throwing him out and pinning him to the ground.

Two Pasco women, Mrs. Leona Hogan, 83, and Mrs. Armosa M. Wrixon, 62, were killed outright when the automobile in which they were riding skidded on the slick surface, turned end over end and slid into the oncoming traffic lane on Seattle-Tacoma highway.

In Oregon, Seneca in Grant County reported temperature low of 24 below Thursday morning. Burns reported minus 8.

The State Highway Department continued to warn motorists that chains are required for all mountain travel.

FIRE DAMAGES HOME

WOODBURN—Fire, apparently starting in the kitchen of the "Tex" Miller residence on Tont St. here, blazed to about \$2500 damage as it destroyed an upstairs bedroom and broke through the roof of the frame house Wednesday noon, firemen reported.

STOCK HEARINGS NEAR

WASHINGTON (AP)—House investigators were en route Thursday to San Francisco to prepare for Internal Revenue hearings expected to start there Jan. 21.

Stassen to Invade Ohio To Test Taft's Strength; Senator Scoffs at Move

Dime Counterfeiting Links Convict, Wife

The common-law wife of an Oregon State Penitentiary inmate was jailed Thursday afternoon on a charge of passing counterfeit money, after 16 counterfeit dimes were found at her Salem home. The coins were believed to have been made at the prison annex.

Lucy McGinnis, 3387 Hollywood Dr., was arrested by State Police on a complaint filed in U. S. Commissioner's Court in Portland by the U. S. Secret Service. She was held in Marion County jail for the U. S. Marshal. She is the common-law wife of Dewey Jackson, serving a life term.

The coins seized yesterday at the home were part of the 50 which the woman told police she had obtained from her husband last week end, when she visited him at the annex, according to State Police Capt. Ray Howard.

Hunt For Molds

Howard said she told him she passed the other dimes to merchants, presumably in the Hollywood district, from which came early reports of the counterfeit money.

As an intensive search of the 45-acre annex property was launched in an effort to uncover the molds used in the counterfeiting, State Police questioned Jackson and three other inmates.

Jackson was sentenced to life imprisonment from Polk County on a charge of second-degree murder in 1941, was released Dec. 22, 1948, and returned to prison as a parole violator last Aug. 6. He has been working at the prison annex hog-hed the past month.

Claims Found

Captain Howard quoted Jackson as saying he found the dimes at the annex but knew nothing of their origin. The coins found yesterday were in a tobacco sack in which Dewey was quoted as saying he found them.

Only known clue to the dimes' origin was a ladle containing traces of rabbit found at the hog shed Thursday. The counterfeit dimes were made of rabbit.

Allies Regain Christmas Hill In Stiff Battle

SEOUL, Korea (AP)—Allied troops fighting through intense mortar and automatic weapons fire in the predawn darkness Friday retook the prized Christmas Hill outpost west of Munsung Valley in East-Central Korea.

Communist forces had occupied it late Thursday night after a surging attack that cut off two Allied squads.

There was no word of the fate of the two squads.

Retake Heights

The hill outpost was named because the Reds first attacked and won it on Christmas Day. The Allies rewon the height one week ago after three days of bitter, see-saw fighting.

In the West, Allied troops supported by tanks in heavy fighting seized all but one of two knobs of an important hill outpost which they lost Dec. 28, a U. N. Command staff officer said.

The outpost is west of Korangpo, which is 30 miles north of Seoul.

Intense Cold Eases

The ground fighting picked up as the intense cold abated and temperatures hovered around a comparatively mild 32 degrees.

An Allied officer said that the South Korean cleanup of guerrillas forces south of parallel 38 was about completed.

In the air war, 15 Allied Superforts blasted Communist targets in Northwest Korea and front line targets Thursday night. All returned to their Okinawa bases, the Far East Air Forces said in Tokyo.

Blast Rail Lines

Planes from the carriers Essex and Valley Forge made heavy strikes on Red rail communication lines Thursday and snapped rail lines in 157 places, a new record for the war, the Navy announced.

A 20-minute fight between an undisclosed number of U. S. Sabre jets and 30 MIGs over Northwest Korea resulted in damage to one of the speedy Russian-built jets.

The action was north of Anju near the Yalu River border with Manchuria.

Kefauver Eyes Candidacy, to Decide Feb. 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican Harold E. Stassen announced Thursday he will invade Senator Robert A. Taft's home state by entering the Ohio primary election, May 6, in a bid for the GOP presidential nomination.

Taft, a leading contender for the nomination, promptly retorted that Stassen is "wasting his time and money" and predicted defeat for Stassen's slate of delegates.

The Ohio senator openly resented a similar move by Stassen in the 1948 campaign. Stassen tried for 23 of Ohio's 53 Republican delegates in 1948. He won nine, Taft got the others.

Taft also scoffed politely at one of Stassen's news conference comments comparing himself to the tortoise and Taft to the hare in the fabled story of the tortoise and the hare.

Stassen had conceded that so far in the race, Taft has "a long lead," but indicated he would overcome it as the campaign progresses toward the finish line.

Taft issued a statement through Taft - President headquarters here saying Stassen's analogy was correct about Taft having a long lead.

No Wayside Nap

"But I am not going to do what the hare did," Taft said, alluding to the wayside nap the hare took during the race while the slow-moving tortoise went on to win.

Stassen told newsmen earlier he had decided to invade Ohio because Taft had "gone into Minnesota, my native state" by appointing a Republican campaign manager there and had "moved on Pennsylvania, my new home state" by appointing a Pennsylvanian as national co-chairman of the Taft-for-President campaign.

In other political developments:

1. Senator Kefauver (D-Miss.) said he expects to announce about Feb. 1 whether he will seek the Democratic nomination.

2. Senator Humphrey (D-Minn.) told reporters he believes Senator Kefauver and Gov. Adlai Stevenson for political propaganda.

3. In the event of a Democratic nomination in the event President Truman decides not to run again.

House Burns At Jefferson

JEFFERSON—The home of Mrs. and Mrs. Frank McElfresh was completely destroyed in South Jefferson Thursday evening by a fire of undetermined origin.

The blaze was discovered by the Lloyd Vincent family next door when the McElfresh family was away. The door to the burning home was locked and the fire had spread throughout the house before arrival of firemen. All contents were destroyed.

Firemen blamed delay in arriving at the scene on the big fire truck being partially dismantled for repairs and the hose on the small truck found to be frozen.

It was not determined if the house and contents were insured.

Reds Decline POW Proposal

MUNSA, Korea (AP)—The Reds flatly rejected a new Allied appeal for the immediate exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war.

The appeal was made at a non-stop 4 hour and 20 minute session of the prisoner exchange subcommittee at Panmunjom.

Rear Adm. R. E. Libby told newsmen afterwards that "it was quite a struggle."

A pooled dispatch from Panmunjom did not say whether the Reds again had rejected an Allied plan for exchange of prisoners and war-displaced civilians.

Stockman Doubts Eisenhower to Run

PORTLAND (AP)—Gen. Dwight Eisenhower will refuse to run for president, Rep. Lowell Stockman (R-Ore) predicted Thursday night.

As a result, Sen. Robert Taft (R-Ohio) will be the next president, the Congressman said in an interview on his arrival here from his home in Pendleton, where he spent the holidays.

Truman Admits Murphy Took, Then Rejected Cleanup Position

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Truman confirmed Thursday widespread reports that Federal Judge Thomas F. Murphy of New York once accepted and later turned down an appointment to head an investigation of corruption in government charges.

But the President turned aside questions about a report that Attorney General McGrath had offered to step out of the cabinet. McGrath has been under fire by critics who say he has not been vigorous enough in cracking down on irregularities in government.

Mr. Truman declared his own governmental cleanup program will go forward uninterrupted.

He predicted Congress will approve his plan, announced Wednesday, to reorganize the nation's tax collection system and take its employees out of politics.

The President said he'd favored such a plan for a long time but

THE WEATHER

	Max.	Min.	Prev.
Salem	39	22	41
Portland	40	20	28
San Francisco	46	32	39
Chicago	30	16	trace
New York	39	36	33

Willamette River 4.8 feet.

FORECAST (From U. S. Weather Bureau, Mount Weather, Va.) Mostly cloudy with occasional showers of rain or rain and snow mixed today becoming partly cloudy tonight. Little change in temperature with the highest today near 40 and the lowest tonight near 23. Salem temperature at 2:30 a.m. today was 37.

SALEM PRECIPITATION

Since Start of Weather Year Sept. 1	Last Year	Normal
34.91	29.05	17.20