

Blast Rips Aircraft Carrier, Killing 30

The Oregon Statesman

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IT SEEMS TO ME
By Charles A. Sprague

Leyte Scene Of Disaster; Forty Injured

WASHINGTON — A free day in Washington gave me a chance to attend hearings at the Federal Power Commission which are of great interest to the Northwest. In one, the examiner was hearing testimony in the Idaho Power Company's application for permits to build three dams on Snake River—the other hearing dealt with applications of pipe companies for the license to rive natural gas into the Northwest. I spent most of my time at the former.

Considering the high emotional temperatures evoked over the Hells Canyon controversy, the hearing was really subnormal. The room is relatively small—about 25 by 35 feet, and comparatively few were in attendance. The examiner sat at a desk on a platform across the front. At his right were tables at which were seated Mrs. Evelyn Cooper, attorney for the Hells Canyon Association, and her adviser, Roy E. Bessey, of Portland, former planning engineer and consultant for the Interior Department under previous administration. At the examiner's left were tables at which Idaho Power Company's attorneys sat. Closing the square, opposite the examiner's desk, were staffmen of the FPC behind tables piled with documents. Behind them were a few chairs for even fewer auditors.

Mrs. Cooper was cross-examining Mr. Larned, engineer for Ebasco Services who had testified in support of the Idaho Power application. Her queries were directed toward the practicality of the dams pro-

Trieste Stand Agreed by West's Big-3

LONDON (AP) — The Western Big Three ministers agreed Friday night to stand firm on a British-American decision to transfer Trieste's Zone A to Italy, but were reported to have decided the Allied troops must stay there until Yugoslavia and Italian tempers cool.

The original idea was to withdraw the 4,400 American and 3,000 British soldiers now on occupation duty in the free territory about the end of November.

Official sources said the United States, British, and French ministers also discussed whether they should make an early offer to Russia for talks on an East-West non-aggression treaty.

Faced with an objection by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer to making the offer now, they were reported to have postponed a decision until Saturday.

U.S. Secretary of State Dulles, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, and French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault also pondered the new frontier flareup between Israel and Jordan.

Winds, Rain On Forecast

Wear your raincoat this morning and keep a hatpin handy. The weather bureau early today forecast a wet weekend, the result of a new storm center headed for the mid-valley from the coast. Gusty winds are expected to accompany off-and-on showers, predicted for today and Sunday. Little change in temperature is anticipated.

Two State Building Projects Get Emergency Board Okeh

Two state building projects at Salem and one at Eugene got the go-ahead signal at a State Emergency Board meeting at the Capitol Friday.

The board approved a grant of

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH

Emergency board members allowed budget increases of \$14,000 for State Library donation fund; \$9,292 for the Board of Medical Examiners; \$29,914 for State Board of Health; \$3,000 for Board of Dental Examiners; \$1,391 for Board of Nurses Examiners; \$200 for Board of Pilot Commissioners. The board turned down a request for \$1,400 from Old Oregon Trail, Inc.

(Additional details on Page 5.)

"I'M ON A DIET... WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME HOW MANY CALORIES YOU ARE."

BOSTON (AP) — A rumbling explosion tore through the big aircraft carrier Leyte Friday, killing at least 30 and injuring 40 others. It was not known immediately how many of the dead were officers or enlisted men. It was reported some civilian Navy yard employees were among the victims.

The 27,500-ton ship was tied up at the South Boston Naval Shipyard annex when the explosion and flash fire swept below decks forward.

Flash Fire Follows
The flash fire which accompanied the blast charred some of the bodies so badly that naval spokesmen said identification will be difficult.

Capt. Thomas A. Ahroon, of Norfolk, Va., a Navy pilot who took command of the 856-foot long ship on Sept. 27, said that rescue parties and damage control men were in action "seconds" after the blast shook the ship.

He climbed over an escape hatch through the side of the ship and ascended a ladder to the flight deck to direct rescue and fire fighting operations.

Court Probes Blast
More than 50 Boston fire trucks and rescue companies raced to the yard to lend aid.

Capt. Ahroon said a court of inquiry had convened to investigate the blast. It was the worst Navy explosion disaster in peacetime since June 12, 1924, when 48 were killed aboard the battleship Mississippi off the California coast.

Navy and civilian firemen fought the blaze for three hours before controlling it in the myriad compartments of the multi-decked forward part of the ship.

Meanwhile, hospital corpsmen from other Navy ships and installations, along with civilian doctors, nurses and fire department rescue teams worked over the injured, many of whom were felled by smoke.

Ferried to Hospital
More than a score of ambulances ferried the injured to hospitals when they were carried off the ship after receiving plasma and other first aid treatment.

Dr. Dominic Pilka, called from his office nearby, said that he viewed the bodies of more than a dozen dead, and that they appeared to have died from either "suffocation, burns or submer-

sion." Capt. Ahroon said that rescue parties and damage control men plunged through smoke and flame to reach members of the crew trapped in the forward part of the ship.

"It was appalling," he said, "to see them go through the smoke with flame only a few feet away from them."

Controlmen Man Hoos
Other fire controlmen manned hoses to beat back the flames as the rescue workers, wearing oxygen masks, searched for the injured and the bodies of the dead.

The fire swept through the officers' wardroom, the quarters of the warrant officers on one deck, and the berthing space and mess room for enlisted men on the deck below that.

Former City Aidman Hurt

Merle (Spike) Crossan, 52, of 877 Oak St., ex-prizefighter and former city first aidman, was seriously injured early Saturday morning when he was struck by a car at the intersection of 12th and Bellevue Streets.

He was rushed to Salem Memorial Hospital by first aidmen where he was still unconscious at 1 a. m. He suffered a possible fractured skull and other undetermined injuries.

Police said driver of the car was Max Schusterowitz, 1165 N. 25th St. The accident occurred a few minutes after midnight.

Family Welcome for Homecoming McKays



Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay and Mrs. McKay get a warm family greeting Friday afternoon when they arrive at McNary Field in Salem for a short hometown visit. Shown are (from left) McKay, Mrs. McKay, Allan and Eileen Hadley, the McKays' grandchildren, and their daughter, Mrs. Wayne Hadley.

McKays Fly To Salem for Visit at Home

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay arrived without fanfare in Salem early Friday afternoon for a weekend of "playing with my grandchildren and not talking politics."

An hour after he arrived in his hometown the genial Secretary was off around town.

"Oh," said a member of his family, "it's hard telling just where he's at. He's making the rounds. He mentioned visiting Gov. Patterson and dropping in at the plant (McKay Chevrolet Co.)."

Secretary McKay, Mrs. McKay and Miss Alene Phillips, his personal secretary, came here direct from Reno, Nev., where McKay attended a conference of the National Reclamation Association.

McKay will leave to return to Washington D. C., Monday morning and Miss Phillips will leave Monday night. Mrs. McKay will remain in Salem for a week.

The McKays are visiting with their daughters, Mrs. Lester Green and Mrs. Wayne Hadley. The cabinet member conferred with Gov. Patterson and other state officials Friday.

McKay said he is traveling by commercial planes, which, he said, he finds less costly and more satisfactory than government planes. A plane, formerly owned by the Interior Department, was sold after McKay went to Washington.

Power Merger Wins Approval

OLYMPIA (AP) — The proposed merger of Puget Sound Power and Light Company into Washington Water Power Company of Spokane was approved Friday by the Washington State Public Service Commission.

The consolidation plan of the two companies still has to win approval of the Federal Power Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the stockholders of the respective companies.

The two companies serve approximately 30,000 customers.

Paget's main operations are in northwestern and central Washington. WWP operates in eastern Washington and northern Idaho.

FLOOD TOLL MOUNTS
SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AP)—Flash floods have killed 37 persons—and possibly as many as 100—in the past 48 hours in the Basque countryside of the Pyrenees.

Mill City Youngster Hospitalized by Polio

MILL CITY — Three-year-old Norman Havercroft, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Havercroft of Mill City, is in Salem Memorial Hospital suffering from polio.

Hospital attendants Friday said the boy was in "fair" condition but was not in an iron lung. He was admitted to the hospital Thursday.

His father is an electrical engineer currently employed at Detroit Dam.

The Havercrofts have a daughter, Francine, age 1½.

\$2 Million Fire At Oakland Dock

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Three huge block-long buildings making up a complete industrial section of the port of Oakland were consumed Friday night in a raging, five-alarm fire visible from almost the entire San Francisco Bay area.

Flames from the four-story buildings shot hundreds of feet into the air, cutting off traffic on the nearby Eastshore Freeway and bringing thousands of citizens to the scene.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, but authorities said damage was expected to exceed 2 million dollars.

Students Exceed Chest Quota, Add Bright Spot for Workers

"There are many bright spots but also lots of dark ones in this campaign," Community Chest drive leaders were telling each other Friday as late reports showed that 59 per cent of the campaign's \$140,000 quota has been collected so far.

Salem High School student body went over the top today in its week-long chest drive. The goal was \$400 and students subscribed \$427, in the week-long drive. This was the first time in five years the school's goal has been attained, according to Paul Beck, senior class president and drive chairman.

Also exceeding its quota was the State Department of Education. Other heavy contributors in the state group were the Civil Defense Agency, State Industrial Accident Commission and office of the state engineer.

A total of \$80,096 had been reported in by Friday night. Biggest gun in the campaign, the merchantile division, has collect-

Freight Train Strikes Auto, Killing Pair

ALBANY — Two men were killed early Friday at an Albany railroad crossing when their car was struck by a southbound Southern Pacific freight train.

Dead are Johnnie C. Smith, 47, of Lebanon, and Melvin Lavon Moore, 19, of Albany.

State police said their car, a 1942 sedan, was carried about four blocks by the engine. Smith, who was driving, was apparently killed instantly. He was found in the car.

Moore was thrown from the vehicle and was dead when help arrived. Both were employed by a food packing company in Albany.

Smith is survived by his widow, Mrs. Bessie Miller Smith, Lebanon, eight children, two brothers and five sisters. Moore is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin D. Moore, Albany, a brother, Richard, and a sister, Bonnie.

The bodies were taken to the Fisher Funeral Home, Albany.

Washer Ride Leaves Tot Set for Dryer

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) — Rickey Peterson, 18 months, got a bath Friday in the family's automatic washer.

While Mrs. D. L. Peterson was out of the room the boy climbed into her washing machine, turned the starting knob and got the ride of his life.

Mrs. Peterson rushed to the kitchen to see her son whirling around in the suds.

After snapping off the motor and finding Rickey uninjured, his mother said: "Now all we need is an automatic dryer."

There was no comment from Rickey. All he could do was blow bubbles.

Heavy Fine Assessed to Drunk Driver

Anton Joseph Rantz, 4055 Brooks Ave., was fined \$1,000 and sentenced to six months in Marion County jail Friday after he was found guilty of driving while intoxicated by District Court Judge Val Sloper.

The maximum sentence for the offense is a \$1,000 fine and a year in jail.

Court records show that Rantz has had three previous convictions for driving while intoxicated and two convictions for operating a car without a driver's license.

Red Explainers Met By Screams, Curses; None Seeks Return

Mystery Witness Breaks at Inquiry Of Radar Spy Ring

NEW YORK (AP) — A mystery witness broke down dramatically before Senate probes Friday, reportedly confessed lying and promised to "tell all" about a Ft. Monmouth, N. J., radar spy ring.

The witness talked about members of the Rosenberg spy ring and said he "knew Rosenberg very well," said Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis) later.

The senator has described atom spy Julius Rosenberg as mastermind of a spy ring at Ft. Monmouth, the Army Signal Corps headquarters of America's top secret radar defense against atomic attack.

Rosenberg died in the electric chair last June 19 for atomic espionage, but McCarthy said the ring may still be active.

McCarthy did not identify the witness but called him "most important." He works at Ft. Monmouth.

"We have placed the witness in the protective custody of this committee," the senator told newsmen, "and I wish you would not, if you know his name, publish it, because he is afraid of his own personal safety, in fact his life and the safety of his family."

Stressing the importance he places on the testimony, McCarthy said he is sending a transcript to the FBI, which originally brought Rosenberg to justice.

This air of mystery and tension, the pale and shaken attitude of the witness built up an impression that a major break in the spy probe may be near.

The witness was a man of medium height, probably in his 40's. He wore glasses.

He was escorted from the closed hearing room after he suffered a physical breakdown of some undisclosed nature. A doctor and a nurse were brought to him. Later he was able to return to the hearing. However, while other principals went out to lunch, "it was brought into him."

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Israel Accused of Threatening Peace by Attacks on Jordan

LONDON (AP) — Britain accused Israel Friday of endangering Middle Eastern peace by an "apparently calculated attack" on three Jordan villages that cost 56 lives. She demanded that Israel punish those responsible and compensate the Jordanians.

The Big Three W. tern foreign ministers now conferring in London took a grave view of the incident, a Foreign Office spokesman said. They weighed a British suggestion that the matter be placed before the U. N. Security Council, but delayed a decision.

In Washington, the U. S. State Department was reported considering a public denunciation of Israel. State Department officials said they were "very much concerned" about the incident and were following all developments closely.

Lincoln White, State Department press officer, said Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's special envoy to the Middle East now en route there, "will do what he can" to ease tension.

The British protest on behalf of Jordan, Britain's closest ally in the Middle East, was the strongest London has delivered to any foreign government in years.

It followed charges made Thursday night by the United Nations-sponsored Mixed Armistice Commission in Jerusalem that Israel was guilty of "aggression against Jordan and its citizens" in attacking the three Jordan villages, in a border area 15 miles northwest of Jerusalem, Wednesday night.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP)—Syria Friday denounced Israel's diversion of the Jordan River as a flagrant violation of the Syrian-Israeli armistice and called on the Security Council to do something about it.

Re-Opening Of Alumina Plant Nears

Re-opening of the Salem alumina-from-clay plant on an experimental basis appeared a long step closer today.

The General Services Administration, government agency in charge of the war-built plant on Cherry Avenue, and Leo Harvey, president of the Harvey Machine Company of Torrance, Calif., which was high bidder on the property several months ago, reportedly had reached an agreement.

It was anticipated signing of the final papers would take another 10 days.

There was no official confirmation of the action, but neither were their denials from sources checked by The Statesman last night.

Arch Metzger, manager of the plant under successive leases for several years, said, "the deal is not closed and I don't feel at liberty to comment."

It was known that Mayor Alfred Loucks spent some time on the telephone in connection with negotiations Friday.

The Harvey company bid \$325,000 for the \$5,000,000 plant. The GSA accepted the bid but insisted on contractual provisions which the Harvey firm would not accept.

The agreement reportedly concluded provides the purchaser shall keep the plant in operational condition (implying that experimental work in producing alumina-from-clay must be carried on) for two years or until the property is paid for, whichever is longer. But the Harvey Company also is empowered to carry on other experiments if it chooses.

Arrested by Portland police was Herbert K. West. He posted \$200 bail and was released.

State police broadcast an alarm for West's car after the 5:13 p. m. accident.

Police said the northbound West car, a 1953 Ford, sideswiped a truck which was headed south and then slid backwards into a Greyhound bus. The truck plunged into a ditch and turned over on its side, but the driver was not injured.

A woman passenger on the bus noted the license number on West's car as it left the scene and a motorist followed the car several miles before losing it.

Only person reported injured was a woman on the bus who was shaken up. Damage to the bus was minor, said police.

Driver Blamed For Leaving Wreck Scene

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THE WEATHER

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	61	44	.02
Portland	62	47	trace
San Francisco	68	48	.00
Chicago	80	45	.00
New York	76	54	.00
Willamette River	-2.4		

FORECAST (from U. S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Cloudy with rain and occasional gusty winds this morning, improving to partial clearing and scattered showers this afternoon. Sunday a cloudy with more rain likely to begin during the afternoon. High today near 62; low tonight near 45. Temperature at midnight 33.

SALEM PRECIPITATION	Since Start of Weather Year Sept. 1	Last Year	Normal
This Year	3.78	20	2.97

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