

Russ Big-4 Offer Termed Obstructive Move by U.S.

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia's note agreeing to a Big Four conference was called obstructive and "disappointing" by the United States Friday.

The State Department analyzed it as an effort to stall the rearming of West Germany and at the same time overcome "the disastrous consequences" of the Soviet's "uncompromising" policy in the past.

While the State Department avoided saying what kind of an official reply would be made to the Russian note, it appeared here that the Western powers will go forward with arrangements for a meeting—probably at Berlin, as the Soviets suggest.

Moscow stated unconditionally its acceptance of a foreign ministers' meeting.

In London, the British Foreign Office welcomed the new Soviet approach as an acceptance of the Western powers' proposals for a four power session.

However, it seemed likely that no official reply would be made until after President Eisenhower meets with Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Laniel of France in Bermuda next Friday.

With news that Laniel's government had survived a parliamentary vote of confidence, despite the springing of the Kremlin surprise Thursday night, there was a feeling in Washington that for the moment the crisis in Western Unity had been passed.

Prospects for a European army

appeared to be a little brighter than they might have been if Laniel's government had fallen, and of course the Bermuda conference can begin as scheduled.

But a statement released by the State Department conceded that the problem of how to deal with the latest Russian move is a sharp new issue for the Big Three leaders and their diplomatic chiefs—an issue which must be handled in such a way as to avoid or minimize delays in Western arming.

The version of the Russian note made public by the State Department contended the Soviets had never refused a foreign ministers meeting and that on the contrary they felt one was necessary.

Santa Arrives Via Helicopter



St. Nicholas made his 1953 Salem debut at the Capitol Shopping Center Friday morning when he alighted atop the Sears Roebuck and Company roof by helicopter and took up his station in the store's basement toy shop for the Christmas season. Thousands of children and parents jammed the center's parking lot while Santa, after his arrival on the roof threw candy while standing above the crowd (at right, upper picture). He is shown below in his hovering helicopter. (Statesman Photo) (Story on Page 5.)

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Young Mother of Four 'Stared Down' In Attempted Holdup of Woodburn Bank

Cool Cashier Says 'No' to Threat Note

By CHARLES IRELAND
Valley Editor, The Statesman
WOODBURN—A young Hubbard mother was arrested 30 minutes after a feeble robbery attempt at the Bank of Oregon here Friday.

Mary Elizabeth Taber, 31, sobbed a story of desperation to authorities who charged her with the attempted robbery.

Police Chief Neil Calkins said she shoved a crudely-penned threat in front of Roscoe Colby at the cashier's cage and fled when he ignored the note.

Accompanied by Son
The chief said the woman was accompanied by a 13-year-old son.

The two walked briskly from the bank and were apprehended by the police chief at 5:10 p.m. They had walked 10 blocks from the bank. The chief said neither was armed.

The boy was not held. Chief Calkins said he doubted that the boy knew what his mother was doing.

With three younger brothers he was taken to a private juvenile home in Salem.

Wore Jeans, T-Shirt
Mrs. Taber appeared dazed when taken to Sheriff Denver Young's office in Salem where she was questioned for two hours by FBI agents and others. An unruly strand of brunette hair fell over her eyes as she sought to evade press cameras.

Her brown oxfords were mud-splattered. A drab, green coat cloaked her jeans and white T-shirt. She wore no stockings.

County authorities reconstructed events as follows:
The woman had walked to Woodburn Friday from her dwelling, an auto court about four miles north of Woodburn on Highway 99-E. All four sons were with her.

She started to walk back to the auto court, then sent the three younger sons home and turned back with the 13-year-old boy.

They entered the bank where the note was penned on the back of a deposit slip.

It said "This is a robbery. Don't do anything you'll be sorry for." Several of the words were misspelled.

The woman and boy approached Cashier Colby's window. She thrust the note at him.

The short, mild-mannered clerk read the note. He said "So?"

The two eyed each other wordlessly for perhaps 30 seconds. Neither moved an inch.

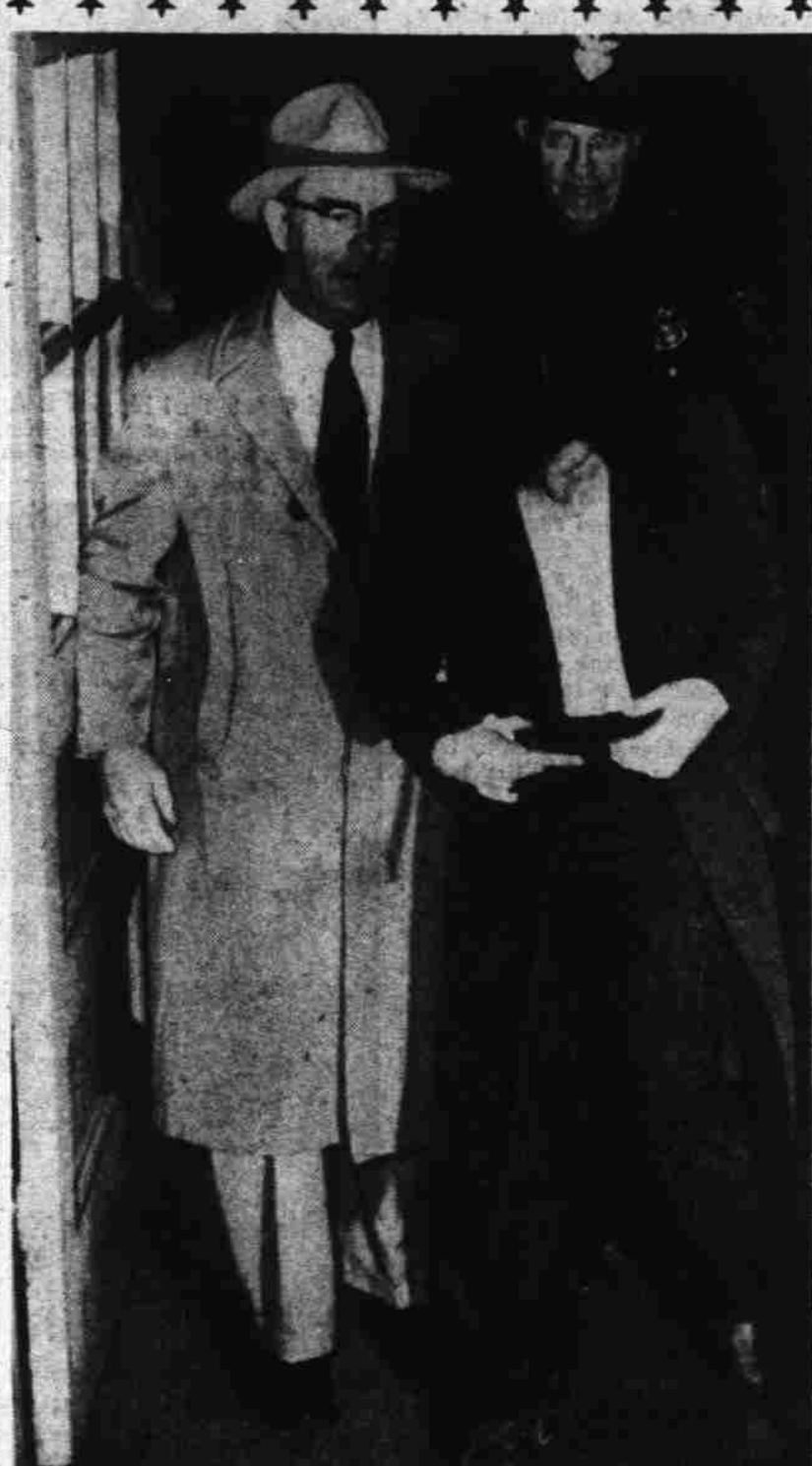
Finally the woman said "No?"

Near Closing Time
"No," the 37-year-old cashier replied. Then the woman grabbed the note and left with her son. It was 10 minutes before closing time. Others in the bank were President Homer Wadsworth, assistant cashier Dorothy Andres, and a patron, P. C. (Pat) McLaughlin.

Only Colby realized the robbery attempt had transpired. He asked Wadsworth to call police while he trailed the woman and boy. He was with Police Chief Calkins when the pair was apprehended.

The woman immediately burst into tears. She was dry-eyed and managed a tiny smile four hours later when she was booked on attempted robbery and taken to Marion County jail. Bail had not been set.

(Additional details on page 2.)



Mary Elizabeth Taber, Hubbard, ducked her head (top photo) as she entered the Marion County Courthouse Friday night for questioning about the attempted robbery of a Woodburn bank. Behind her is Neil Calkins, Woodburn police chief, who arrested her. Sheriff Denver Young is beside Mrs. Taber in top photo. At bottom are close-ups of Mrs. Taber and Roscoe Colby (left), the bank cashier who ignored a note during the attempted robbery.

Dodd May Seek Oregon Senate Post in '54 Vote

By JAMES M. LONG
ROME (AP)—A Democrat and a Republican were nominated Friday as rival candidates for the job of director general of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization FAO, but one may withdraw to run for the United States Senate in Oregon.

Death Takes Playwright Eugene O'Neill

BOSTON (AP)—Eugene O'Neill, whose powerful dramas marched across American stages in an almost steady procession for two decades, died quietly Friday night at his home.

The 65-year-old playwright, who roamed the world for material, had been ill for several years with Parkinson's disease. That ailment, a form of palsy, gradually cut down his activities and in recent years writing was impossible.

With him when death came, was his third wife, Carlotta Monterey, his physician, Dr. Harry L. Kozol, and his nurse.

Dr. Kozol said the direct cause of death was bronchial pneumonia. The high point of O'Neill's long career came in 1936 when he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. No particular work was cited by the award committee but O'Neill considered his play "Mourning Becomes Electra" a strong factor in the choice.

(Story also on Page 2)

Suomela Gets Federal Fish, Wildlife Post

WASHINGTON (AP)—Interior Secretary McKay Friday appointed Arnie J. Suomela, Oregon fisheries director since 1945, an assistant director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Last summer Suomela took a 4-month leave to make a special survey of Alaska fisheries for McKay. The secretary described Suomela, 51, a native of Ilwaco, Wash., as "one of the nation's authorities on salmon fisheries." He has done extensive research in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

At Astoria where he is spending the holiday weekend, Suomela said he will resign the Oregon job at the end of the year and take over the \$10,000-a-year federal post Jan. 2. The State Fish Commission had no announcement about a successor.

Suomela graduated from the University of Washington in 1924 with a degree of science and fisheries. He received a master's degree from the University in 1931.

Jess Gard, Oregon Republican national committeeman, said Suomela was endorsed for the federal post by state GOP leaders.

Sun Unexpected; Rain Seen Again

The sun fooled everybody Friday—including the weatherman—and broke through after nine wet and cloudy days.

But the respite is to be brief, says the weatherman. Light rain is called for again sometime this afternoon. Sunday is scheduled to be dry but cloudy.

The river was still falling Friday. It measured 122 feet at midnight. Five-day outlook is for occasional rain and near normal temperatures.

Young Army Man Admits Tokyo Slaying

TOKYO (AP)—The Army said Saturday that a young sergeant, in confessing the strangulation slaying of 9-year-old Susan Rothschild, explained he had an uncontrollable urge to kill.

"It was just because she was there," the Army quoted Sgt. Maurice L. Schick, 29, of Canonsburg, Pa.

The Army released portions of what it described as Schick's confession of the slaying last Saturday. It said the sergeant confessed orally and then signed a sworn statement early Saturday.

Schick was quoted as saying he talked to the young girl for several minutes while she was on her way from visiting a friend. When the girl started to leave, he grabbed her and choked her until she was unconscious, the Army said.

Schick said he made no effort to rape the girl and had no particular reason to kill her. An autopsy confirmed she had not been raped.

Schick lives with his wife and two adopted Japanese girls in the same Sagami-hara housing area, 30 miles southwest of Tokyo, where Susan lived.

Water Supply Of College Heights Cut

Statesman News Service
COLLEGE HEIGHTS — Residents of this community have been warned that their water supply may be contaminated and should be boiled before use, according to Thomas Dalke, College Heights water department board member.

The well supplying the system was flooded Tuesday when the Willamette River crested. The well is located between the Dallas highway and the river. A cap was left off Monday by workmen cleaning the well, Dalke said.

Two families in College Heights reported that their children were ill but didn't know whether the illness was the result of contaminated water. The Polk County Health Department has had no case of illness reported in the community, Dr. A. B. Bossatti, county health officer, said.

A water sample from the system was sent to the state board of health for a contamination check, according to W. S. Fitts, Polk County sanitarian, and a report is expected back from Portland Monday. The well is being cleaned out and possibly will be chlorinated today, Dalke explained.

Some 20 families in the community along with Salem Academy use water from the system. Wednesday drinking water for the academy was carried from Dallas, Principal J. E. Schroeder said.

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IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The Harry Dexter White case gets farther and farther away from Harry Dexter White. It first developed into an attack on the Truman administration; Harry countered with a condemnation of Brownell and a blast at McCarthyism. This touched off Sen. Joe McCarthy to make a counterblast at Truman, and what is more significant to thrust himself in front of President Eisenhower as THE issue for 1954. This according to well authenticated reports has left the White House entourage boiling.

This is the repercussion from the reputed Brownell attempt to foreclose McCarthy out of prominence as the preeminent foe of Communism in government. Jumping Joe is not one to assent to his own eclipse on such a fruitful political issue. He claimed right to time to reply to Truman and the radio and TV networks assented. So McCarthy put on his act Tuesday night.

The Senator from Wisconsin not only reasserted his dominance of the anti-Communist stage but fired some salvos of criticism at the Eisenhower administration. He called for defeat of any who send aid to allies who "are in turn shipping the sinews of war to the Communist enemy." He praised the discharge of 1456 as "security risks under the Eisenhower administration," but criticized it for retaining John Patton Davies in diplomatic service. He disagreed with Eisenhower's hope that with the elections of 1954 Communists-in-government no longer would be an issue.

Joseph C. Harsch giving in the Christian Science Monitor (Continued on Editorial page 4.)

Laniel Wins Qualified Vote

PARIS (AP)—The National Assembly voted Friday to keep Premier Joseph Laniel in office so he can go to the Bermuda conference and talk about the Russian agreement to a four-power meeting, but warned him he can't promise French approval of the European army.

The qualified support for Laniel and his Cabinet came 275-244 in a vote of confidence on a weakly worded resolution that said:
"The National Assembly approves the government's statements (during a foreign policy debate) and asks that the policy of building a united Europe be continued." A total of 100 deputies abstained.

FLIGHT CUT OKED

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Civil Aeronautics Board Friday authorized West Coast Airlines to end one of its three daily round-trip flights out of Portland, Ore., at Medford instead of at Klamath Falls.

Animal Crackers



By WARREN GOODRICH
"Paper drive."

50,000 Left Homeless by Pusan Blaze

By MILO FARNETH
PUSAN, Korea (AP)—A raging inferno that cut a fiery 1 1/2-mile swath through this refugee-packed port burned itself out Saturday, leaving at least three dead, up to 50,000 homeless and millions in damage.

The 15-hour, wind-whipped blaze burned itself out on firebreaks rammed up by bulldozers and dynamited by U. S. Army Engineers. Firefighters said only a sudden change in the wind saved the entire city from being engulfed.

Flames shooting 50 feet high destroyed headquarters of the U. S. Army's Korean Base Section which has directed the funneling of billions of dollars in war equipment since 1950.

Also gutted were 5,000 to 6,000 homes and buildings; the compound of the neutral nations truce inspection team; three of Pusan's four major daily newspapers; the offices of the Korean Pacific Press and the Orient Press; headquarters of the Korean National Airlines; the Korean Postoffice, and four hotels.

AVA LONDON BOUND
NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Ava Gardner, still planning to divorce crooner Hubby Frank Sinatra, left for London by air Friday after a nine-hour stopover here between flights.

DRIVER KILLED
BANDON, Ore. (AP)—Clair A. Stone, 53, of Ada, Ore., was killed Friday when a car he was driving plunged off the highway 16 miles south of here.

THE WEATHER

City	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	57	46	.01
Portland	57	46	.00
San Francisco	62	51	.00
Chicago	32	29	.04
New York	47	36	.07

Willamette River 122 feet
FORECAST (from U. S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem):
Increasing cloudiness with intermittent light rain this afternoon and evening. Partly cloudy Sunday. High today 50 to 52. Low tonight 44 to 46. Temperature at 12:01 a.m. was 41.

SALEM PRECIPITATION
Since Start of Weather Year Sept. 1
This Year Last Year Normal
11.31 2.36 10.52

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North Korean Jet Pilot Gets Reward

TOKYO (AP)—The Air Force announced Saturday it had paid the \$100,000 reward promised to the North Korean pilot who flew a Russian-built MIG15 to South Korea and asked asylum.

The Air Force said a check for \$100,000 was presented Senior Lt. No Kum Sok by the finance officer of the 20th Air Force on Okinawa, where the Communist fighter jet has been undergoing tests.

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Continuation of Consumer's Cooperative Aim of Meeting

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman
Roy Rutschman, chairman of the Marion County Farmers Union, has called a meeting to discuss retention of a consumers' cooperative at Salem.

The meeting will be held at the Farmers Union hall, at 8 o'clock Tuesday night, Dec. 1.

The meeting is the outgrowth of a recent joint meeting of the liquidating board of the old Farmers Union co-operative and the organizing board of the new co-op.

Plans call for dividing the Salem area into districts with teams to be organized and given the job of canvassing each district for new co-op members.

The meeting will be open to all interested, with those who have agreed to take membership in the new co-op particularly invited to attend.